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Where boys bathe Barbies

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Talks under way for return of Ilya's remains

By MARGOT DUKWITCH

Negotiations for the return of the remains of Third Petty Officer Itamar Ilya, the naval commando who yesterday was officially declared killed in action, appear to be under way. International Red Cross officials have reportedly forwarded a message on the matter from Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak, refused to comment on the reports.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah has said he would be willing to undertake negotiations for a swap of prisoners held by the South Lebanese Army and Israel in exchange for Ilya's remains.

Red Cross representative Jean Jacques Farner met with Hariri yesterday afternoon and reportedly handed him a letter from Netanyahu. In a televised interview, Farner told reporters: "This issue is dignity. You must try and avoid pictures shown in the media recently. I advise using one

channel for the negotiations and your prime minister has agreed, otherwise it becomes too muddling."

Farner predicted the negotiations would take some time. He said he had met with Nasrallah the day before, but refused to discuss the meeting.

Meanwhile, IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami lashed out at recent media reports on the inquiry into last Friday's unsuccessful commando raid in Lebanon, saying the reports were disrespectful to those who lost

their lives. He denied that the media have the right to publish speculations regarding the inquiry, some of which might have been leaked by IDF officers. "I find it hard to believe that any IDF officers would leak highly classified information and I condemn such acts, but the media cannot carry out their own investigation," he said. "Once the inquiry is completed and the findings are published, then it will be legitimate for the media to speculate or to question the findings."

During a visit to an IDF base, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told reporters that, in a meeting two days ago with Netanyahu and Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, naval commandos asked to be allowed to continue carrying out missions. "They are our warriors," he said.

Chief Chaplain Maj.-Gen. Gad Navon yesterday formally declared Ilya a casualty whose burial place is unknown. He issued his determination after studying the report of the raid

and receiving the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's declaration that a condition of national emergency existed at the time of the raid. This brings the official toll of those killed to 12.

Also yesterday, the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee received Israel's protest regarding the Hizbullah attack on an IDF outpost that resulted in the death of Nahal Lt. Avraham Bok on Sunday. Israel claimed that the deadly mortar rounds had been fired from a nearby village and

screened video footage to prove this. The committee demanded that Lebanon prevent violations of the agreement and take steps to ensure that Hizbullah does not fire from populated areas. The committee rejected Lebanese claims regarding last week's commando raid, affirming that its objective was purely a military target. However, the committee stressed that Israel must seek to prevent civilian casualties in the future.

Hariri says peace possible in 3 months

Report: Arad holds secret talks in London

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political adviser Uzi Arad held "secret talks" in London Monday night that apparently focused on resuming peace talks with Syria, Israel Radio reported last night.

A spokesman for Netanyahu declined to comment on the report.

Golan Heights leaders expressed fear that Netanyahu had passed a message to Syrian President Hafez Assad indicating a willingness to make concessions on the Golan. They noted that if this is the case, it would contradict express promises Netanyahu had made to them two months ago.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said that Israel can reach peace with Syria and Lebanon in three months if it is ready to give up territory.

"I am calling for the Israeli government to reconsider its policies and to come back to the table and to discuss real peace and to put in their mind that they have to withdraw from the whole Arab territory," Hariri said in an interview with Reuters television.

"Peace is very close," Hariri said. "We can finish an agreement in three months between Lebanon, Syria, and Israel if there is a real and fundamental decision from Israel to live in peace in the region."

"With all my heart I hope that they reconsider their policy and get back to the table and continue the negotiations and finalize [a peace agreement] as soon as possible," he said.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is scheduled to visit Damascus. It was unclear if Lebanon would be added to the itinerary, but Hariri, leaving today for an official visit to France, said he would return if she included a stop in Lebanon.

Hariri would not say what Lebanon would do if Israel unilaterally pulled out its forces, saying the focus had to remain on the need for a broad Middle East peace settlement.

"Israeli security cannot be assured without peace in the region - everybody is saying the same, all the leaders in the world, all the leaders who are very close friends of Israel," he said. "Security is the result of political agreements; you cannot achieve security by force."

Batsheva Tsor adds: President Ezer Weizman reiterated yesterday that the only country that can restore order in Lebanon is Syria "and those who say that we should withdraw [unilaterally] in order to reach an agreement do not, in my opinion, understand the matter."

(News agencies)



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright waves yesterday at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland as she boards the plane bringing her to the Middle East. (AP)

Cabinet okays budget cuts

By DAVID HARRIS

The cabinet yesterday approved the Treasury-proposed NIS 2.3 billion cut to the 1998 state budget, by a vote of 11-6 with one abstention.

During the 18-hour debate, there were times when a majority threatened to vote against the Treasury, which had received the full backing of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy abstained. Those who voted against the cuts - Eli Suissa (Interior), Eli Yishai (Labor and Social Affairs), Tzahi Hanegbi (Justice), Zevulun Hammer (Education), Yehoshua Matza (Health), and David Levy (Foreign Affairs) - spent much of the day attacking the cuts both in the Knesset and in media interviews.

Yishai, Hammer, David Levy, and Matza were particularly outspoken, accusing Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman of betraying the disadvantaged.

"This is a budget which is cut off from the social reality," said Levy. "It ignores what we call the social disaster and that's unemployment."

Hammer said he has no doubt the budget the Knesset eventually passes will be substantially different from the one the cabinet approved, saying that to assure a majority, it will have to forget about cutting the education, welfare, and health budgets. Netanyahu rejected the claims

that the cuts will affect the poor.

"Those who claim this are not objective and not accurate," he said after the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting. "The fact is that unless we cut the budget and pull this nation out of its enormous overdraft, there will be many more poor and the lot of the poor will be far more difficult."

He said the brunt of the impact will be felt by the wealthiest 30 percent of the population.

While the Treasury proposals were mostly approved, there were certain changes:

- The education budget will be cut by NIS 250 million as proposed, but Hammer will decide where the cuts should be made, rather than accepting Treasury recommendations.

- All proposals for reforming health services were approved with one exception - there will be ongoing dialogue between the Treasury and Health Ministry over the size of government funding for the basket of health services.

- Details are scheduled to be released today on smaller compromises in other ministries, including Immigration and Absorption, Industry and Trade, and Agriculture.

- Defense spending will be cut by NIS 400m, rather than the initially suggested NIS 550m. But Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who voted for the budget, insisted there would be no real cut in defense spending. Instead, the ministry would sell off assets, and the pro-

ceeds from the sales would be used to strengthen and refit the IDF, some of whose systems have not been replaced since the Yom Kippur War.

The cabinet also approved plans to reduce the child allowances to families with less than four children, whose head has a gross income of more than NIS 7,000 a month, and to demand national insurance payments from people working beyond the legal retirement age.

Immediately after the cabinet vote, Neeman told reporters he would not be drawn out on the fight that lies ahead in the Knesset.

But it is already clear that the budget will be roundly challenged, with MKs from Geshet, the Likud, Shas, and the National Religious Party all expressing concern about a variety of the proposals.

For the opposition, former finance minister Avraham Shohat described the package of cuts as "the worst possible, a budget of economic slowdown, and socially harmful, with no chance of passing in its present format."

The Histadrut attacked the cabinet's approval of the cuts, with Chairman Amir Peretz calling the 3 a.m. vote and its build-up "the great night of robbing the workers."

The labor federation intends to step up industrial action against the measures today as local authority employees hold sanctions.

Sarah Honig contributed to this report.

PM: No US pressure on us

By SARAH HONIG

"No pressure is being exerted on Israel" in connection with the visit of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters yesterday.

Albright is due to land this morning and spend the next three days here before visiting Syria.

"We are not operating in a framework of pressure," Netanyahu said. "So far as Israel is concerned what is at stake are the most basic existential issues and the US fully comprehends that this is the case."

He also dismissed suggestions that Albright may go over his head and address the Israeli people directly.

"The situation is quite the reverse. She is a very welcome guest and is invited to say what she has to say. We are allies, and it is most natural, logical, and desirable that she speak to the Israeli people," he said.

Some around Netanyahu seek to exude a spirit of optimism, saying that more than at any time in the past the US understands the Israeli position, and that if there is to be any arm-twisting, it will be of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's arm.

But the pessimists fear that to appear even-handed and because she knows the emphasis that Israel will place on Arafat's violations of every one of his undertakings over the past four years, Albright may seek to make demands on Israel as well. Thus, she is expected to request that Israel give the PA funds it is withholding.

Netanyahu yesterday held final consultations with his top advisers, with Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and with Ambassador to the US Elihu Ben-Elissar.

Albright is slated to meet with President Ezer Weizman, twice with Netanyahu, with Levy and Mordechai, with Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak, and with Arafat. She was due to have a single conversation with him, but following PA protests, she may see him an additional time.

Her plane is due to land at 6 this morning and she will be welcomed by Levy, who will get a chance to talk to her during the ride to Jerusalem. She will have breakfast with Weizman, then they will leave together to visit the wounded from the latest Jerusalem bombing at Hadassah-University Hospital, Mount Scopus.

Albright's first working session with Netanyahu will take place in the afternoon. They will be joined by Levy and Mordechai and a news conference will follow. Albright will visit Yad Vashem in the evening and then meet with Barak.

Tomorrow, she will meet with families of MIAs, breakfast with Leah Rabin, then lay a wreath at Yitzhak Rabin's grave. A meeting with Arafat will follow, then one with Netanyahu. In the evening, she will address Jerusalem high school students.

On Friday, Albright will return to the PA, then leave for Damascus at lunchtime.

Meretz and right-wing groups both plan to welcome Albright with placards along her route to Jerusalem this morning.

Reuters adds:

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa yesterday called on Israel to reconsider its stand on the peace process and asked Albright to help.

"The current Israeli policy doesn't lead us to a meaningful and fair settlement and it is clear for everybody that the continuation of these policies will lead to regression and this will only lead to a dangerous result," Moussa said.

"Israel is called upon to reconsider its policies. Mr. Netanyahu must be told in no uncertain terms, and especially by the US, that no one will allow him to blow the peace process."

Arafat meets Beilin, Page 2

"She's coming when there was violence [referring to bombings], but this is also a time when settlements and the provocation of Palestinians has become very frequent. Her main task is to deal with the situation and not from one aspect - security. She has to address the core if she wants to help salvage the peace process," Moussa said.

Hillel Kuntler reports from Washington: The Washington Post yesterday came out in support of a Palestinian state, saying such a goal would help revitalize Israeli-Palestinian talks.

In its lead editorial, the paper criticized American policy for being centered on bringing Israel peace and security without trying to assure that the Palestinians achieve their main wish - statehood.

"In other words, the Israelis are asked to make concessions and promised what they most want, even while the Palestinians are asked to make concessions with no comparable assurance they will get what they most want," the editorial stated. "The remedy is obvious: The US should endorse the goal of Palestinian statehood.... The very statement of that goal could give the negotiation the impetus it now lacks."

Gov't to give Albright list of security demands

By MARGOT DUKWITCH

A list of Palestinian security commitments, compiled by the Government Press Office and published yesterday, will be given to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during her visit.

The list includes these points:

- The Palestinians have agreed to full and unconditional security cooperation: detention, arrest, and imprisonment of all terrorists previously released by the Palestinian Authority, according to lists submitted by Israel; dismissal of PA personnel involved in terror or violent acts against Israel (the Oslo 2 Agreement demands that those found guilty will immediately have their job terminated and their weapons and police identification documents confiscated).

- The PA must implement the security commitments specified in the Hebron Agreement, such as preventing Palestinian rioters entering areas under Israeli control, or attacking IDF forces stationed in the buffer zone that divides the H1 and H2 areas, the report said.

- Illegal firearms must be collected and confiscated, according to Oslo 2.

- All forms of incitement against Israel by PA officials must be stopped, and those who deliver inciting sermons in mosques must be dismissed and prosecuted.

- The PA must comply with the 33 extradition requests submitted to it, including the four suspects involved in terrorist attacks in which American citizens were killed.

- The Palestinian Police force, currently at 35,500, must be reduced to the number agreed upon, 24,000.

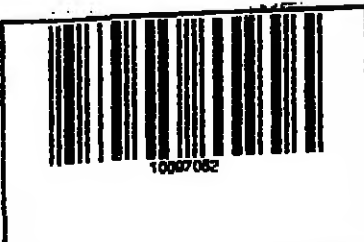
- The PA must submit a complete list of all recruits for review and approval.

So far the PA has only submitted 18,500 names.

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PM: Not our business who heads PA

By SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was unimpressed yesterday by reports that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat considered resigning because of the impasse in the peace process.

The reports claimed that it was only after the entreaties of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein that Arafat relented reluctantly to remain in office.

"The fact is that this is none of our business," Netanyahu said after appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

He argued that "Israel has no interest in influencing or determining who will head the PA. We have no desire to see a change there. It is no concern of ours and it is the decision of the Palestinians alone, just as it is no business of the Palestinians to influence who forms the government in Israel."

"Our task is not to deal with who leads the PA, but to demand that the PA lives up to its end of the bargain and it makes a credible effort to eradicate the terror hot-houses flourishing under its jurisdiction."

Netanyahu also did not buy the story that the PA has begun mass arrests of Islamic activists. "They picked up small fry in what is essentially a cosmetic touch up to pretty appearances prior to the arrival of the US secretary of state in the region."

"This hardly begins to deal with the terror infrastructure in the PA territories, which Arafat had not touched in the four years of the PA's existence. These so-called arrests - in the PA's best revolving door tradition - are just plain irrelevant." Investigation of the Rehov Ben-Yehuda bombing, according to Netanyahu, "points unequivocally to the fact that

Hamas organized this outrage. This action would have been impossible were it not for the local infrastructure the terrorists could count on in PA territory... The basic problem is that Arafat made possible the creation of terrorist safe havens within a five-minute distance from most Israeli cities."

He noted that prior to the formation of the Likud government "there were 28 suicide bombings carried out without any connection to the state of the negotiations. This calamity that the diplomatic deadlock breeds terror must be exposed. The previous government gave the Palestinians all they wished, but the suicide bombers struck nevertheless. The reason is that the terrorists really want to destroy Israel. This situation demands steadfastness. If terror will be combated in earnest, there will be progress at the negotiating table as well."

Netanyahu also took on those who advocate immediate, unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon. "All these people are doing is encouraging Hizbullah and emboldening it to redouble its efforts to strike at us."

"I doubt there is anyone who wants to leave Lebanon more than I do. But this must be done under the proper conditions and with the best security provisions and safeguards. We will have achieved nothing if we pull back and then have to go back in again at a far greater cost in the lives of IDF soldiers."

"There are no easy solutions. We must take a deep breath and calm down."

Basheva Tsor adds: Asked about reports that Arafat considered resigning, President Ezer Weizman said yesterday: "If this is true, I can understand Mubarak and Hussein. With all the anger against Arafat, he can bring better results than anyone else."

Arafat looks for Left's backing

PA chairman, Leah Rabin to sign Oslo reaffirmation

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NABE

Palestinian Authority chief Yasser Arafat tried to persuade left-wing Israeli politicians yesterday to speak out against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies toward the Palestinians during US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit.

"The political opposition in the Knesset has not made its voice clearly heard: that the Netanyahu government wants to destroy the peace and will be held responsible for it," a senior PA negotiator said. "We want the Labor Party and President Ezer Weizman to say their views on this in a clear voice."

At a meeting last night, Arafat and Labor Party MK Yossi Beilin agreed to mark the fourth anniversary of the Oslo Accords by having Arafat and Leah Rabin, widow of the late prime minister, sign a document reaffirming the commitment, Israel Radio said.

Arafat meets tomorrow and Friday with Albright in Ramallah. Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi said the meetings wouldn't dwell only on security issues.

"We expect to deal with the political and economic and not just the security aspects," Ashrawi told the *Jerusalem Post*.

Ashrawi said that the PA would not reject Israel's call to start negotiations on the permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, "but we also expect to see any discussion on permanent status talks maintain the agenda of what has already been agreed upon."

"What's the point of signing anything if the agreements are not honored? Frankly, nobody has any faith in this Israeli government," Ashrawi said.

She denied reports that Arafat offered to submit his resignation this week and that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak talked him out of it. "This is not true," she



Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat meets yesterday with Labor Party MK Yossi Beilin, an architect of the Oslo Accords signed four years ago. (AP)

said. "We are all rallying around him."

PA secretary-general Tayeb Abdul Rahim said in Ramallah yesterday that Israel has verified reports that the suicide bombers on Rehov Ben-Yehuda came from abroad. He accused Israel of refusing to acknowledge or share related information with the PA.

Abdul Rahim also said the PA would hand Albright a list of 20 Jewish organizations which allegedly waged terrorism against Arabs in the last year. The list was

drawn up in response to a list Netanyahu planned to submit regarding Palestinian commitments to fighting terrorism.

Palestinian Communications and Post Minister Imad Falouji warned that violence against Israel would continue unless it implemented the peace agreement.

"Netanyahu hasn't honored the peace process nor the peace agreements," Falouji told *Al Quds*. "He wants to enter into permanent agreements without going through the interim agreements. What can

be expected then from the Palestinian street?"

The PA arrested 12 more Hamas activists yesterday, bringing to 49 the number of arrests made since the Ben-Yehuda bombings, Palestinian sources said.

Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi protested the arrests as "a strong slap in the face of the national dialogue and Palestinian unity that we hoped would be achieved during our recent conference."

Palestinian sources said Arafat was being careful not to go over-

board in trying to show Washington he was fighting terrorism, for fear of provoking Hamas reprisals.

Abdul Rahim Mallouh, a leading activist in the dissident Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, called on the PA to reject requests for mass arrests.

"Our people have the right to struggle against the Israeli occupation," he said. "The American side is biased for Israel and we can't take US promises seriously anyhow."

Barak calls on Netanyahu to resign

By DAVID HARRIS

During his period in office, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has proved he is incapable of fulfilling his election pledge of peace with security and as a result must resign, Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak demanded yesterday.

"Go home Netanyahu, resign," he called in opening a special Knesset debate on the security situation following last week's triple suicide bombing in Jerusalem and a series of incidents in Lebanon.

Barak accused the government of destroying any hope for peace. "What do we see today?" he asked. "An absence of peace. There is terror and there's no hope."

With regard to Lebanon, Barak said there must not be a unilateral withdrawal of Israeli troops without an agreement with the Lebanese government.

Responding, Meir Sheerit (Likud) said the only alternative suggested by Labor is a "policy of government and nothing more concrete. He called on Israel to remain bold and resolute in sticking to its security tasks. "Our role is not to give up," he said.

Sheerit, who heads the coalition in the Knesset, then turned attention to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian Authority

Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"When Mubarak speaks with his people and Arafat with his, the language is different - it's the language of peace."

Representing the government, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said Israel will fight terrorism wherever possible and using all available tools.

Mordechai suggested the timing of two recent terror attacks in Jerusalem was not coincidental. Both were preceded by the announcements of visits by US envoys, first special Middle East negotiator Dennis Ross and now Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"What unites this House today is the fight against terror," said Mordechai. "Whoever wants to progress with us must prove he is prepared to fight terror."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid responded by saying the recent tragedies are not the result of an unlucky birthright, but bad policies.

"[David] Ben-Gurion, [Levi] Eshkol, Golda [Meir], [Menachem] Begin, [Yitzhak] Shamir, [Shimon] Peres - and the murdered Yitzhak Rabin - a list of fitting names, and what do we have now: the name Netanyahu," said Sarid, also demanding Netanyahu's resignation.

During a Labor faction meeting before the Knesset debate, a string of MKs renewed calls for the establishment of a national unity government. This will be the only salvation for the Oslo agreement, said Micha Goldmann. Elie Goldschmidt said that, until now, he had been opposed to the idea, but in light of recent events this could be the time for a national unity government.

Acts of terrorism do not depend on the lifting or imposing of closures, but upon the terrorists themselves, said Yehuda Harel (The Third Way). He urged the government to cling tightly to the Oslo agreement and the additional agreement on Hebron.

The visit to the region of US Secretary of State Albright, to begin today, will achieve nothing, particularly in light of recent events, claimed Azmi Bishara (Hadash). He suggested that Albright comes to Israel with no new ideas.

Nissim Dahan (Shas), meanwhile, called for a spirit of national unity among the people. While not objecting to public debate, Dahan said that now is the time for greater understanding within Israel.

"Before the session MKs stood for a minute's silence in memory of all those killed in recent days and Speaker Dan Tchepp, on behalf of the House, expressed condolences to the bereaved."

PA raps bomb details ban

By MARGOT DUDKEWITZ

A Palestinian official yesterday lashed out against an Israeli order calling for a complete ban on the publication of details of last week's suicide bomb attack in the Jerusalem's Rehov Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall last week.

Taib Abdel Rahim, an adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, accused Israel of purposely concealing details to weaken and embarrass the PA.

IN CONTEXT / Elli Wohlgelernter

Returning to the land of her forefathers

Madeline Albright arrived here today not only as the US secretary of state, on a political mission to put Middle East peace efforts back on track, but also in the context of her recently revealed Jewishness.

The story is no longer headline news, yet perhaps its final chapter is being written today: How will she feel as a new-found Jew, in the land of her biblical ancestors?

And how will Albright, a one-time Catholic and now Episcopalian, feel when she visits Yad Vashem, where the death of her own grandparents and six million others are remembered?

When the story of Albright's Jewish background broke on February 4 in *The Washington Post*, it made many Jews uncomfortable, and some angry.

First was the issue of her parents' conversion to Catholicism to hide their Jewishness. For thousands of years Jews had braved persecution to maintain their identity, often paying with their lives.

But Albright's parents, Josef and Mendula Korbel, took a path taken by many other Jews during the Holocaust, in an attempt to protect their children from horror and tragedy.

"One of the implications you can draw from the Shoah," says Efraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel office, "is just to cop out, forget it - 'Why suffer, why potentially suffer, why be a potential target of persecution?' Listen, they obviously had very little positive Jewish conscience."

When Albright was asked if she thought her parents made the right choice, to create a new identity for their children, she was quoted as saying: "I think my father and mother were the bravest people alive. They dealt with the most difficult decision anyone could make. I am incredibly grateful to them, and beyond measure."

Others took exception to her parents' decision. Jeff Jacoby, a columnist for the *Boston Globe* whose father's relatives died in Auschwitz, wrote that Albright's parents had failed.

"No. They avoided the difficult decision. They ran from it. They rejected their Jewishness and

betrayed their parents' memory, and spent a lifetime deceiving their daughter," he wrote.

This raises the second issue that bothers some Jews, namely, just how deceived was Albright?

In the original *Washington Post* article, she was quoted as saying that she found the new information "fairly compelling," but wanted to conduct her own research into her family and its fate. "Obviously it is a very personal matter for my family and brother and sister and my children," she said.

Albright then told *Newsweek* that she had been misquoted: "I was not surprised about my Jewish origin. What I was surprised about was that my grandparents died in concentration camps."

What followed were reams of newspaper copy, both in the secular and Jewish media, asking the old Watergate question: What did she know, and when did she know it? If she did know of her Jewish origins, why was it a secret until now? And if she wasn't clear on the story, how could this intelligent, politically savvy student of history not bother to find out?

Further evidence surfaced questioning Albright's version of the story, first regarding Albright's first cousin, Dagmar Simova, who had lived with Albright's family in London during the war, and was a main source for information on her Jewish past. Simova had apparently tried to make contact with Albright in recent years, but to no avail.

Then there was Petr Silas, the mayor of Letohrad, her father's hometown in the eastern Czech republic. Silas had written to Albright in February 1994, shortly after she became United Nations ambassador, telling her of her family's past and inviting her to visit. Two more letters followed, but Silas never heard from her until a few months ago, following a visit by Albright's brother and sister.

If Albright didn't know before, she certainly knows now. But what can she do with the knowledge? Can she or should she embrace a Jewish identity that was never hers?

"In a certain sense, her accepting a Jewish identity is almost a rejection of her parents, because her parents knowingly opted out," says Zuroff. "She didn't reject Judaism, she had

no clue she was Jewish."

But in the seven months since she "became" Jewish - in awareness, if not in practice - Albright has gone out in search of that Jewish past. In July, on a working visit to Prague, Albright went back to the Pinkas Synagogue she had visited a year before, only this time she came to search for her grandparents' names on a list of 77,297 Czech and Slovak Jews who perished in the Holocaust.

"I did not know my own family story then," she said, in an emotional statement to reporters. "Tonight, I knew to look for those names. And their image will forever be seared into my heart."

"To the many values and many facets that make up who I am, I now add the knowledge that my grandparents and members of my family perished in the worst catastrophe in human history. So I leave here tonight with the certainty that this new part of my identity adds something stronger, sadder and richer to my life."

Last week, on a personal trip, Albright went to visit Letohrad and Kostelec, her mother's hometown, in search of her past.

Today she visits Yad Vashem.



Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal

The family of Keren Hayesod mourns the passing of

HANS BACHRACH

of Melbourne, Australia

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We extend our condolences to the family

Shlomo Hillel
World Chairman

Moshe Gur
Director General

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YOHANAN HILBURG

we will meet at his grave on

Thursday, September 11, 1997,

at 10 a.m. at the Gush Katif regional cemetery

The Hilburg family
Members of Nezer Hazani
Hof Azza Regional Council

Correction

The Page 1 headline in yesterday's paper should have referred to the Stern Group (Lchi) and not to Etzel (IZL).

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Tel Aviv: At 5 p.m., in front of the US Embassy on Rehov Hayarkon

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POB 7352, Jerusalem Tel: 03-6363549 Fax: 02-624-5380

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Experts warn against two-tier health system

By JUDY SIEGEL

A chorus of opposition to the government's decisions on the health budget was heard yesterday, with warnings that allowing the health funds to charge regressively for certain services—over and above existing health taxes based on income—would create separate health systems for the poor and the rich.

Kupat Holim Clalit director-general Dr. Yitzhak Peterburg said he is sorry "the government has decided to increase health taxes by allowing the insurers to charge members directly. Each health fund will decide what services it will give members, instead of a universal health basket set by the National Health Insurance Law."

Peterburg argued that the new plan—which won't go into effect without passage by the Knesset—would create "negative incentive" for the health funds to admit low-income members, because they won't be able to pay the extra fees.

The health funds would also have to revert to an independent collection system, which was abolished by the law, thereby creating needless new layers of bureaucracy that will only increase the health funds' deficits, he maintained.

Clalit also opposes the Treasury's intention of allowing the establishment of for-profit health funds. "This is a scandal," he said, "at a time when there is a NIS 1.3 billion deficit. The for-profit insurers will make money on the backs of the patients."

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who voted against the budget in the cabinet, will brief reporters in his office this afternoon.

The Israel Society for Patient's Rights said the government's proposals would cause great injustice to the poor. It urged the debate on the changes be moved from the Knesset Finance Committee to the Labor and Social Welfare Committee, which has a more positive attitude toward the disadvantaged.

Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, director-general of Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, denounced the proposed changes, saying that they would "again make Clalit the health fund of the poor and Maccabi the health fund of the rich. Members will have the choice of how much health they can afford: care only in times of catastrophe, or preventive treatment and early diagnosis if they have the money to pay for it."

He added that usually, the ministry, the health funds, and other public bodies argue and differ on proposals, but "the unanimous opposition to the government's plans shows that something must be wrong with them."

Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri is demanding that the ministry instruct all government hospitals to appoint additional kashrut inspectors—at a time when they are crying for money for medications, beds and equipment," he said.



Rabbinical justice

President Ezer Weizman yesterday hands Rabbi Shlomo Shapira his certificate of appointment as a rabbinical court judge, as court administrator Eli Ben-Dahan looks on. "Hatred will get us nowhere and we can easily destroy everything we have labored to build up," Weizman said in reference to the placing of a pig's head in a Moslem cemetery in Neshet. Seven new rabbinical court judges were sworn in at the Beit Hanassi ceremony.

(Efrain Kilashnik)

NEWSLINE

with ELIEZER JAFFE

Eliezer Jaffe is a Hebrew University social work professor, and a founder of Zahavi, the Association of Large Families.

The new budget reduces the child allowance for families with less than four children, whose head earns more than NIS 7,400 gross a month. How significant is this?

What we are witnessing is a process that eventually will lead to the child allowance being distributed not as part of the National Insurance Institute, but as welfare.

What's the difference?

There's a big difference. The NII has "respectability." Welfare payments have a stigma, and are very much in the hands of social workers making decisions about eligibility and need.

How did the child allowance originate?

The allowance was established after the Wadi Salib riots in Haifa in the late 1950s. A Wadi Salib resident was shot by the police, and the people attributed it to oppression by the establishment against large families, poor people, and Sephardim. A committee was set up to see who these people were, and what was going on. Most were from large, poor families, and it was decided that something was needed to alleviate their problems. The child allowance was then established.

One of the important decisions

was to give the money through the NII, something anchored in law, and not as welfare payments. The difference is that this way the payments cannot be changed every Monday and Thursday. This was a tremendous innovation, and pulled people out of poverty overnight.

What has happened over the years?

Two things. The amount did not keep up with the cost of living, and the Treasury began viewing the allowance as a welfare grant. There are two camps, one that maintains that all families should get it as a bonus, and another that believes it should only go to the needy. The argument has been going on for 40 years, and now we see that the second camp has won.

Now the allowance has been cut back, and the next step will be to do away with it entirely for families with less than four kids. We are in a post-socialist economy, and these things happen in a market economy.

Isn't there logic in the argument that higher income people do not need these allowances?

Sure, but there is also the view that if Israel wants more children, it has to show it. There is a myth that Israel wants children, wants a higher birth rate. But what steps have been taken? At least the child allowance was some kind of concrete gesture.

Herb Keiron

Northern mayors threaten to resign

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Confrontation line mayors and council heads threatened to hand in their resignations on Sunday if the government continues to ignore their demands.

The leaders held an emergency meeting yesterday to discuss proposed budget cuts that will affect education, welfare, and municipal housing in their communities. They also complained that the government had reneged on commitments to give additional assistance to border areas.

According to Ma'alot-Tarshiha Mayor Shlomo Buhbut, head of the Forum of Heads of Confrontation Line Settlements, the government has refused to transfer funds agreed upon by the Peres government in 1996. "The former government agreed to transfer an additional NIS300 million a year to the communities for the years 1996, 1997, and 1998," Buhbut said. "We have only received part of those funds and in addition the government wants to introduce more budget cuts."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman, Shai Bazak, said yesterday that all the funds had been transferred to the communities. "It is a shame that Bazak does not bother to check the facts," retorted Buhbut, adding that requests to meet with Netanyahu had been ignored. "If Netanyahu continues to ignore us, then we will have no alternative other than to resign and on October 1 all payments to suppliers and services will be stopped," Buhbut warned.

Ministry closure plans put on hold

By JUDY SIEGEL

Science Ministry staffers yesterday welcomed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to postpone by 45 days a scheduled discussion of Science Minister Michael Eitan's plans to close the ministry.

The premier agreed with the proposal by Deputy Defense Minister MK Silvan Shalom, who is due to take over the ministry in 10 months, to set up a professional committee to examine Eitan's proposal.

However, in a meeting with ministry employees yesterday,

Eitan said that the "ministry will close despite the prime minister's request to delay the process." The staffers, in a tense meeting, accused Eitan of "cynical use of your power to advance your political status."

Eitan, in turn, said the workers "have reason to worry" and "I don't see a solution to your problem."

Eitan demands that a statutory National Council for Research and Development be established, ministry staffers be fired, and that he remain science minister, working out of the Prime Minister's Office.

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NEWS

in brief

Junior faculty strike ends at Hebrew University

A strike by junior faculty at Hebrew University ended yesterday after an agreement was signed with masters and doctoral students. A university statement said that the striking faculty had agreed to quickly grade examinations taken over the summer and to publish the marks within two weeks. But the statement did not specify what salary demands were met. The strike was launched last spring over work conditions and salary. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Soldiers charged in prison riot petition court

A lawyer said yesterday that 18 soldiers involved in the Military Prison No. 6 riot plan to petition the High Court against the IDF's decision to indict them on charges of mutiny and blackmail. Attorney Amir Goren, who represents one of the soldiers, Gideon Marini, said the indictments handed down yesterday in Jaffa Military Court abrogated an agreement reached last month with the IDF that brought a peaceful end to the weekend-long riot. *Itim*

Two Meshulam followers get 16 years

A Beersheba court yesterday sentenced Yoav Sha'abi and Avner Said, two followers of Uzi Meshulam, to 16 years in prison for the attempted murder of Ramle Prison guard Benny Aviram. They were convicted of ambushing Aviram outside his Kiryat Malachi home in December 1994, and opening fire when he came out to go to work. Aviram was wounded, but returned fire, wounding the two. In passing sentence, the court said it considered the defendants' previously clean records and the fact that they were wounded. *Itim*

Australian endows TAU overseas school

The Overseas Students School of Tel Aviv University has gained the sponsorship of Frank Lowy, a Jewish communal leader in Sydney, Australia, and will now be called the Lowy School for Overseas Students. The endowment will enable the school to accommodate Australian students and arrange accreditation for them from Australian institutions of higher education. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Teen's swollen scrotum reduced to normal

Doctors at Haifa's Bnai Zion Hospital have reduced to its natural size the scrotum of a 14-year-old boy that had ballooned to the size of a grapefruit. The surgery, reportedly the first of its kind ever performed here, was required because of a problem in his lymphatic system. At the end of the two-hour operation, the doctors said recovery would take some time, but that they would examine him at periodic intervals to make sure the lymphatic flow remains normal. *Judy Siegel*

Man held for slashing wife's throat

A Kiryat Ata man was arrested yesterday on suspicion of murdering his estranged wife by slashing her throat.

Reuven Yizraelashvili, 34, was arrested in the Ashdod apartment of his wife, Irma, 29, as he stood over her lifeless body holding a razor-sharp utility knife dripping with her blood. The crime was witnessed at the last second by the arresting officer.

Police say Yizraelashvili arrived at about 8 a.m. at the flat, where his wife lived with their 10-year-old daughter. He was apparently carrying a letter he had written her asking for a second

chance.

On his way in to their apartment building he encountered the daughter, whom he escorted to school before returning to see his wife. He reportedly told the daughter that he was trying to get her mother to come back and live with him in Ashdod — but he also promised that, if they did divorce, he would always visit her.

Neighbors said Yizraelashvili stood outside his wife's door, pounding and kicking it, and yelling that if she did not open it he would break it down. The neighbors mistook him for a robber, however, and called the

police.

Despite the sound of police sirens approaching, Yizraelashvili did not flee, but waited for several minutes in the stairwell before opening the electricity box and shutting off the electricity to his wife's apartment.

When she opened the door — apparently assuming he had fled so as not to be caught violating a court order barring him from seeing her — he forced his way in and attacked her.

Locking the door behind him, he began to beat her and push her into a rear room.

Police arrived and, unable to

enter the locked flat, went outside, where officer Kobi Mor volunteered to climb onto the balcony of the first-floor apartment. He smashed the locked balcony window and, with his pistol drawn, ran inside to the bedroom, where he heard screams.

Mor described for reporters the scene he found as he burst through the door:

"I saw the husband bend over his wife and slit her throat just like a sheep."

"I was dumbfounded. I aimed my pistol at him and asked him to drop the knife."

At that moment, Mor continued,

other officers entered the room and they arrested the suspect.

Yizraelashvili was remanded by Southern District Magistrate's Court Judge Shmuel Hemdani for 15 days.

Neighbors said Yizraelashvili had refused for several years to divorce his wife, and had become incensed when he learned she was seeing another man.

At the courthouse Yizraelashvili shouted out to reporters: "I know that what I did was very serious. I saw a knife, I picked it up and I don't remember anything. I'm guilty, but only God will judge me." *(Itim)*

Husband held for beating pregnant wife

The director of a high-tech communications company was indicted yesterday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court for beating his pregnant wife until she lost consciousness.

The man is also suspected of brutalizing their children, aged three and eight, but has not yet been charged.

Judge Hanan Efrati ordered the man released under five days' house arrest, since the wife and children are already staying at a battered women's shelter.

The court was told that the husband first attacked his wife in August, after she confronted him with the knowledge of his adultery.

The wife had complained a number of times to police of beatings, which included her husband allegedly smashing her head against the wall and the floor.

The husband, who denies the charges, slashed several policemen with a pair of scissors when they came to arrest him. The found him hiding in the bathroom, convinced he had killed his wife. *(Itim)*



Ombudsmen convene

Ombudsman and State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat sits between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Dr. Marten Oosting of Holland, at the opening session yesterday of the Conference of European National Ombudsmen at the Jerusalem International Convention Center. Ombudsmen and their assistants from 20 countries are here for the three-day conference. *(Itim)*

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Vilna Gaon events ignore protests

By ISABELLA GINOR

NIDA, Lithuania — About 30 Israeli scholars and rabbis attended the opening yesterday of a conference marking 200 years since the death of the Vilna Gaon, ignoring calls by the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Holocaust survivors to boycott the state-sponsored event.

The boycott was urged in protest against Lithuania's failure to try suspected Nazi war criminals, such as Aleksandras Lileikis, and his deputy Kazys Gimzauskas, former heads of the Lithuanian Security Police, who are blamed for the slayings of many Jews.

Unlike elsewhere in Europe, most Lithuanians who perished in the Holocaust were killed by local police and thugs before they could even be deported to death camps, Efraim Zuroff, the Wiesenthal Center's Israel Director, said. About 94% of 220,000 Jews who lived in Lithuania were killed during World War II.

Zuroff said that the commemoration was a "transparent attempt by the Lithuanian government to mitigate criticism of its refusal to try war criminals."

The Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel added that "if the

Gaon had been alive at the time, the Lithuanians would have murdered him just as they brutally killed so many local rabbis."

The Vilna Gaon, or Rabbi Eliyahu, was a preeminent scholar of non-hasidic Jewry in the 18th century.

The three-day conference, entitled "The Gaon and the Annals of Jewish Culture," being held also under UNESCO auspices, was formally opened at a special session held by the Lithuanian Parliament, known as the Seimas.

Organizers told *The Baltic Times* that none of the 44 scheduled foreign participants had heeded the calls for a boycott.

Israel's only official representative at the conference is nonresident ambassador Oded Ben-Hur. Other state figures declined or canceled.

A rabbinical delegation, headed by Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar Yishuv Cohen, announced that it would only attend a memorial ceremony being held at the Gaon's tomb after the Parliament meeting.

Afterwards, Vilna's only surviving synagogue was being presented with four Torah scrolls that were once held at the Mazydas

Library.

Meanwhile another related academic gathering convened this week at this Baltic coastal resort, entitled, "History and Genocide in Lithuania."

Rector Stasys Vaitekunas of Klaipeda University, which organized the conference, said its importance was part of "an unprecedented quest to establish what led to murder of the Jewish people here."

Vaitekunas said that the fact that an apparent absence of state media coverage of the event was "an indication of the political climate well reflected by the media — which underlines the need to address these painful points in our history."

Beside this reporter, the conference opening was covered only by German media and a few local newsmen.

Prof. Dina Porat, head of anti-semitism studies at Tel Aviv University, said that many young Lithuanian historians were paying with their careers to research the massacre of Lithuanian Jews.

She said this was "why their Israeli colleagues must support their effort to bring this into the wider consciousness of the Lithuanian public."

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Qatar prepares invitations to summit

Jerusalem Post Staff
and agencies

Invitations to the highly contentious Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit which Qatar plans to host in November will be sent out at the end of the month, despite mounting Arab pressure to push Israel out of the event, a senior Qatari official was quoted as saying.

Qatari newspapers quoted yesterday Mohammed Ibrahim Emadi, assistant coordinator general of the

summit, as saying the invitations would be sent to businessmen, companies, and government officials from more than 35 countries.

The Middle East economic conferences have been convening annually since their launch three years ago in Morocco. However, since then what first was hailed as an epitome of the Middle East peace process, has come to be seen by some as economic non-starter. Meanwhile, various Arab circles see in the forum a prize which the Arab world should not give Israel.

Saudi Arabia, the Palestinian Authority, and the United Arab Emirates have already announced they will boycott the summit if Israel is represented.

Still, Emadi had told reporters on Monday that Qatar is proceeding with the plans to host the summit on schedule.

Syria and Lebanon, which along with Iraq and Libya stayed away from the three previous MENA summits, have also said they would not attend.

Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco have

expressed hesitation about attending.

Saudi Arabia has urged Qatar to cancel the meeting, and Syria has called on other Arab states to join the boycott.

The annual event, which last year was held in Egypt, has until now been attended by Israel and most Arab states, as well as the region's major trade partners in the industrialized world.

The Qatari papers quoted a statement by the US Embassy in Doha as saying 100 American business-

men would attend the summit.

Emadi said the organizing committee had so far received applications from nearly 600 businessmen.

Emadi, who is an ambassador at Qatar's Foreign Ministry, was speaking to reporters after receiving 1.4 million Qatari riyals (\$384,000) from the state-owned Qatar General Petroleum Corp. as a contribution toward sponsoring the summit.

He said sponsorship contributions from the public and private sectors exceeded nine million riyals.

More Nixon tapes to be released

By GEORGE LARDNER Jr.

WASHINGTON — More Nixon White House tapes will be made public next month, but they're not going to include some recently declassified "abuse of power" segments.

The head of the National Archives, John W. Carlin, has nothing but praise for what he describes as the Nixon estate's cooperation on the forthcoming release of 154 hours of cabinet room conversations on October 16. In an internal memo to Archives officials, Carlin, who has been pressing to create a full-fledged presidential library in California for the late Richard M. Nixon, said the release of the cabinet room conversations is "noteworthy" in large part because after many years of litigation, "the Nixon estate is working with us to facilitate opening tapes to the public." What Carlin didn't mention, critics point out, is the status of close to 200 scandal-tinted segments that were originally withheld from the public on national security grounds when Nixon's "abuse of governmental power" tapes were released last year.

According to informed sources, archivists in charge of Nixon's records at the National Archives facility in College Park, Md., had been planning to release these additional "abuse of power" segments, totaling about one hour, at the same time as the cabinet room conversations. Now, as a result of a legal reading by the Nixon estate, it appears it could take as much as four to five years before the snippets can all be made public.

"The declassification review is done," said University of Wisconsin historian Stanley Kutler, one of those who asked that the still-censored portions be made public. Archivists in charge of Nixon's records at College Park processed them under an executive order that President Clinton issued in 1995 to pare down the mountains of secrets in government files.

Another source, who asked not to be named, suggested that release is being delayed to keep the new "abuse of power" sections from overshadowing the cabinet room releases.

Asked about the now declassified segments of the "abuse of power" tapes, archives spokeswoman Susan Cooper said she could not "predict when we are going to be able to open" them.

She said the Nixon estate "has not reviewed that material yet." The cabinet room conversations are said to cover a wide variety of domestic and foreign policy topics with participants, including Nixon Cabinet members, White House staffers, members of the National Security Council, congressional leaders, presidential committees and commissions.

In his memo, a copy of which was obtained by *The Washington Post*, Carlin said the Nixon estate could have insisted on a laborious review of all the cabinet room tapes and lodged "item by item" objections.

Instead, he said, the estate "approved the release in its entirety." A lawyer for the Nixon estate, Scott L. Nelson, made clear Monday that the estate sees no need to rush on the remaining "abuse of power" segments. The tapes are being released under the terms of an intricate 1996 agreement that settled a lawsuit Kutler brought. While the "abuse of power" tapes were to be released first, a step taken last fall, Nelson said the cabinet room tapes are supposed to be next, followed by releases in chronological order of the remaining 2,338 hours over the next several years.

Under that timetable, Nelson argued, any "abuse of power" snippets not released last fall will have to wait for their chronological turn to come up. He said lawyers at the archives agree with his reading of the settlement pact.

An exception, however, is being made for three tapes on Vietnam POW-MIA matters, which will be released with transcripts September 29.

Carlin said in his memo that the Nixon estate agreed to this release "for humanitarian reasons, following a special request from representatives of POW-MIA families." In fact, those three tapes and transcripts were provided to Nixon's lawyers almost five years ago. They had been sought by a Senate committee investigating POW-MIA issues, but while Nixon responded to questions posed by the committee, lawyers for Nixon denied the committee access to the tapes themselves.

In allowing the POW tapes to be made public now, Nelson said the estate was free to permit "earlier releases" than the agreement provides for. But as for the now declassified "abuse of power" segments, he said, "the estate does not see a reason for deviating from the agreement." (Washington Post)

Jennings, Rather to anchor Mother Teresa funeral

By JOHN CARMOODY

WASHINGTON — ABC News's Peter Jennings and CBS News's Dan Rather will both be in Calcutta on Saturday to anchor live broadcasts of Mother Teresa's state funeral.

Both will also anchor the Friday editions of their respective *World News Tonight* and *CBS Evening News* programs from Calcutta.

A spokeswoman for NBC News said late Monday that the network "hadn't formulated" plans for funeral coverage yet.

CBS News noted it already had dispatched Moscow-based correspondent Richard Threlkeld to India to cover the story.

Jennings, whose overseas assignments as a correspondent for ABC News included a first visit to India in 1965 and regular coverage from 1969 to 1975, said Monday that "Calcutta is the most interesting city in India. But the poverty was ubiquitous — it was such a natural place for Mother Teresa to put down roots, the poor were so desperate."

Jennings arrived in New York Monday after covering the funeral in Britain over the weekend and had yet to read any of the criticisms of network coverage (anchors talking too much was a print media favorite). "So far," said Jennings, "I get the feeling we did quite well" Saturday morning, but he conceded that one ABC glitch "was clearly in bad taste — we won't do it again."

As Sarah McCorquodale, Princess Diana's sister, recited a poem during the funeral service, the network aired a "billboard" pointing out she had once been Prince Charles's girlfriend and had suffered from anorexia.

Schools ban mascots with Native Indian themes

By DOUG SMITH

LOS ANGELES — Brushing aside the pleas of some teachers, parents and alumni to keep cherished traditions, the Los Angeles Board of Education voted Monday to eliminate all references to American Indians in the names and images of school mascots.

The 6-0 vote, followed by an American Indian victory drum ceremony, gives three high schools and one middle school a year to replace their current Indian mascots. It also provides district funds to pay for paint to cover up Indian images and for new school uniforms, when necessary.

"Any group that feels hurt, we have to say, 'I will help you,'" said board member George Kiriama, trying to mollify critics of the ban. "You have to be sensitive not just to the Native American but all people of life."

The policy will require replacement mascots for the Braves of Birmingham High School in Van Nuys, the Mohicans of Gardena High and the Warriors of University High in West Los Angeles and Wilmington Middle School.

Several American Indian groups had asked the board last Tuesday to ban Indian mascots after it appeared that alumni groups from Birmingham and University were derailing an order to that effect issued by former superintendent Sidney Thompson.

Stunned by the quick rebuff, Birmingham High supporters came out in force Monday to argue that the change would destroy school spirit, waste money and open the way to attacks on other mascot names, such as four with the same names as condoms.

"Approximately 30 mascots fall into the category of politically incorrect, unless the animal rights activists come out, then it will be 100 percent," said Lee Marks, a Birmingham alumnus. (LA Times)



Yemenite step

German President Roman Herzog (left) and the President of Yemen Ali Abdallah Saleh review the honorguards after Saleh's arrival in Bonn's presidential palace yesterday. (AP)

Divers recover more bodies from sunken Haitian ferry

By JIM LONEY

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (Reuters) — Divers were set to return to a sunken Haitian ferry yesterday to resume recovering the bodies of hundreds of passengers trapped below deck when the boat sank near shore.

As many as 400 people drowned when the packed ferry *La Fierre Gonavienne* (the Pride of Gonave) went down on Monday in 36.5 meters of water just 50 meters off Montrois on the Gulf of Gonave, officials and witnesses said.

Divers from the Canadian contingent of UN peacekeepers recovered at least 24 bodies from the ferry late on Monday and were to return to the vessel early yesterday.

"It's hard to get the bodies out because the spaces are really narrow," said Cpl. Chantal Arsenault, of the Canadian Armed Forces, who along with some other 18 divers searched the sunken vessel, prying

open windows and doors to get inside.

She described a gruesome scene where dozens of victims were crammed into narrow passageways and near exits.

"We went down the main stairway and there's people stuck in the railings. Bodies stuck in the doorways," she said. "It's hard to say [how many], but there's sure a lot. Dozens for sure. A hundred or more, maybe."

The divers recovered bodies near one entry after prying open a doorway, and took them to shore in small boats. The victims were placed on the stony beach, where officials went through pockets searching for identification before sliding the bodies into plastic bags.

Witnesses and survivors said the vessel about 13 meters long, tipped when many of the passengers went to one side, apparently to disembark. Officials said the vessel routinely offloaded by drawing into shallow

water where passengers either swam, waded, or were carried to shore.

Accounts differed on how many people were on board, making it unclear how many may have reached shore safely.

"The report we have from the Haitian Coast Guard is 300 to 400 dead," US Coast Guard Petty Officer Scott Carr said in Miami.

Ferry manager Gabriel Louine said its capacity was 400 and it carried only 260, while Sylvain Chanel, a local official from La Gonave, told Reuters 276 tickets were sold, not including children. A ticket collector said that 800 people boarded and police said there were 800-900 passengers.

US officials in Port-au-Prince said the ferry had a maximum recommended capacity of 80 people.

The Canadian divers recovered at least 24 bodies from the boat, but had only been able to search one of three below-deck compartments.

Haitian Red Cross Secretary-General Regis Marc said only 30 people were confirmed to have survived.

Some 50 fragments of medieval manuscripts are now at the Israel Museum. Sounds dull? Well, they form one of the most exciting and moving exhibitions I have ever seen.

Meir Ronnen
The Jerusalem Post

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Frisco in chaos as BART strikes

SAN FRANCISCO — Commuters were plunged into transportation hell yesterday, the first workday after 2,600 workers with the Bay Area Rapid Transit system went on strike.

Normally, 275,000 people ride the BART all-train system every day. But not a single train was running on the system's 93 miles of track yesterday morning.

Desperate commuters jammed ferries or crowded into hastily put-together car-pools, while others daring enough to take the trip alone ended up circling the city in search of what was rarely found — a parking space. Bus riders reported waiting up to an hour, watching bus after bus packed pass them by. Some of the luckiest did their jobs from home while others just gave up and took the day off.

Monumental traffic jams began blocking freeways leading into San Francisco by 5:30 a.m. and lasted up to five hours.

"It's terrible," said Kathy Madden, a building manager in San Francisco who got off the ferry from Oakland Monday morning looking angry and exhausted. "My commute on BART normally takes 30 minutes."

I've been at it for three hours this morning, and I still have to walk up to my building. Unless the strike is settled, Madden said, she will take vacation time and stay home the rest of the week. "This can't go on for long," she said. "It's too crippling."

The trigger for all the misery is a dispute over wages and a two-tiered pay system for workers. Last week, BART unions turned down what management called its final offer of a 3 percent annual pay raise for the next three years, saying that was not enough.

At a news conference in the morning, Mayor Willie Brown

offered his services as an informal mediator. BART management and the three unions involved quickly accepted the offer. They canceled a session with a state mediator in favor of sending BART board vice president James Pang and union leaders to City Hall Monday afternoon. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

The mayor told reporters he wants to end the strike quickly, before it damages San Francisco's booming economy. But there was no indication that a breakthrough was imminent.

In a statement issued in the afternoon, BART President Margaret Pryor said the strike was "about very well paid workers, who have a generous offer on the table which would keep them among the best-paid transit workers in the nation and yet they are striking for even more." Daniel

Beagle, a spokesman for Service Employees International Union Local 790, which represents BART mechanics and clerks, defended the wages as fair for workers living in one of the nation's most expensive regions.

"What is highly paid here in the Bay area?" Beagle asked. "If a top mechanic is making \$48,000, you've got to pay that kind of money to get the kind of system you want. That's what it costs."

The unions are asking for annual raises of 6.5 percent, 5.5 percent, and 5 percent over the next three years. They also are fighting to end a two-tiered wage system, in which workers hired after January 1, 1995, can reach only about 90 percent of the top pay scale.

"There are issues of principle here," said Beagle. "We want equal pay for equal work." (LA Times)

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Janet Reno holds key for Gore's presidential hopes

BY JOHN F. HARRIS
and THOMAS B. EDSALL

WASHINGTON — Long before Vice President Al Gore gets a chance to face voters in the year 2000, he finds himself in the precarious position of being judged by an electorate of one: Attorney General Janet Reno.

Reno's staff is in the midst of reviewing whether Gore's 1996 fund-raising activities — which have been subject to a cloudburst of negative publicity over the past two weeks — raise enough questions to merit further investigation under the independent counsel law. It will be Reno's decision whether to recommend appointment of an outside prosecutor, a variety of Washington political hands in both parties said Monday, that will answer the critical question for the Clinton administration's heir apparent: Is Gore simply bumping through an unpleasant stretch of bad political weather or has he flown into a career-threatening crisis?

Thomas Hale Boggs Jr., a Democratic lobbyist and fundraiser, contended that the Senate campaign-finance hearings will have little long-lasting consequence for Gore. "You spin it and it's over," he said, adding that most voters will dismiss the allegations as mere politics "because it's Republicans vs. Democrats."

Conversely, "an independent prosecutor looking at each violation of law, with a lot of money [to conduct an inquiry], that is a different matter," Boggs said. Not only would Gore's entire fund-raising

network be subject to questioning, but, on a much broader basis, an independent investigation fundamentally "interferes with your life."

"It's hard to run for president with an independent counsel running around," said one veteran Democratic operative sympathetic to Gore. "People don't want to vote for someone who could be facing an indictment." This person, who spoke on condition of anonymity, argued that the allegations against Gore are trivial and are being deliberately pumped up by vindictive Republicans. Even so, the operative added, "This is going to guarantee some heavy primary opposition no matter what happens."

Gore advisers maintain the criticism the vice president has taken for making telephone calls to contributors from the White House and for attending a political event last fall at a Buddhist temple is unfair. Gore argues that the telephone calls — the issue the Justice Department is examining — were legal, although he has pledged not to make such calls in the future. And while the vice president said it is now clear the event was "finance-related," he and his staff said he did not know at the time that its main purpose was fund-raising.

They chalk up the current political thumping as a predictable part of the process for a presidential contender. "You can't have a long career in modern politics without going through some turbulence, but he'll come out of this fine," said Robert Squier, Gore's long-time media consultant.

Gore's staff took heart from a CNN/USA Today poll that sug-



Amid all the finger pointing, Attorney General Janet Reno must decide whether Vice President Al Gore's '96 fundraising activities raise enough questions to warrant further investigation. (Photos: AP)

gested the vice president retains a large measure of public confidence. Asked if Gore was "honest and trustworthy," 64 percent said yes, while 25 percent said no. The equivalent numbers for President Clinton were 53 percent yes and 42 percent no. They also showed that among Democrats, Gore is far ahead of potential rivals such as Jesse Jackson or House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt as the choice for the nomination in 2000. Republican lobbyist Tom

Korologos, who has worked with former attorney-general Edwin Meese and other clients who were the subjects of special prosecutor investigations, said, "It's a debilitating experience. It knocks you off your feet; it knocks you into a cocked hat. You become consumed by this damned thing."

Of Gore, Korologos asked: "How can he go out and raise money? How can he go out and give speeches? How can he be a politically viable candidate in

whatever cattle calls the Democrats might hold? You watch and see, a governor or two will bounce in [the presidential race]. It could wipe out a whole year on him, and he ain't got a year."

Gore would not be the first person to seek the presidency with a prosecutor on his trail. While then-vice president George Bush was not the official subject of the Iran-Contra investigation, prosecutor Lawrence Walsh announced damaging allegations about his role.

And Clinton won reelection in 1996 despite the existence of Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth Starr's inquiry.

But some Republicans said Gore has already sustained political damage. The televised images of his appearance at the Buddhist temple are likely to find their way into TV ads aired by opponents. And his stilted defense of the phone calls at a news conference last March — he repeated over and over that there was "no controlling legal authority" barring such calls — has weakened his image for ethical rigor. "The controversy goes to the heart of his effectiveness as a candidate, it undermines his earnest, clean image, and it undermines it in a very visual way," said GOP strategist Edward Gillespie.

One Democrat who worked on Clinton's presidential elections said the biggest problem for Gore may be a certain awkwardness when the spotlight is on. Gore associates said he has privately acknowledged that his "no controlling legal authority line" was a mistake. But the veteran of Clinton's campaigns said the biggest concern was the "mind-set and psychology" that would lead him to resort to such a phrase in the first place.

"Clinton's at his best when [political problems] are at their worst, and it appears that Gore is the opposite," this Democrat said.

Some Democrats said Gore compounded his political problems by first saying he made solicitations on "a few occasions." Last month, Gore aides acknowledged that it was 10 occasions that Gore had solicited funds from 46 donors and called some 30 others to ensure that they delivered on pledges.

Reno previously had said that no independent counsel review was warranted for Gore because his White House telephone solicitations were for unregulated "soft money," which benefits the national parties, and the relevant federal laws concern only "hard money," which benefits individual candidates. But she was forced to reassess last week following revelations that some of the money Gore raised was moved by DNC staff into hard-money accounts.

Reno announced that her staff would conduct a 30-day review to see if more investigation is needed into whether there is credible evidence suggesting Gore broke the law. If so, a 90-day Justice Department investigation will begin, after which Reno would decide whether to ask a judicial panel to appoint an independent counsel.

Such prosecutors in the past have expanded their areas of inquiry, often taking years to finish their work.

Some officials said Gore, who has been sensitive to any challenge to his integrity, is becoming more philosophical about his political travails. "He had a bad week," said one aide. "You can't run for president without having some bad weeks." (The Washington Post)

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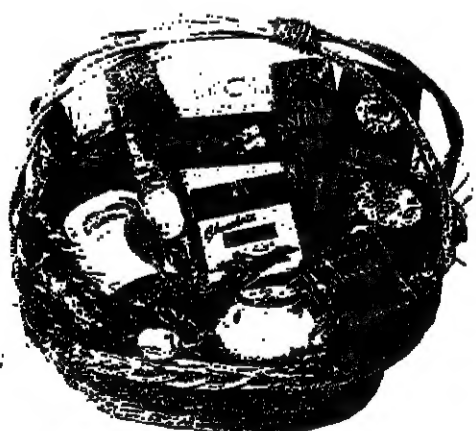
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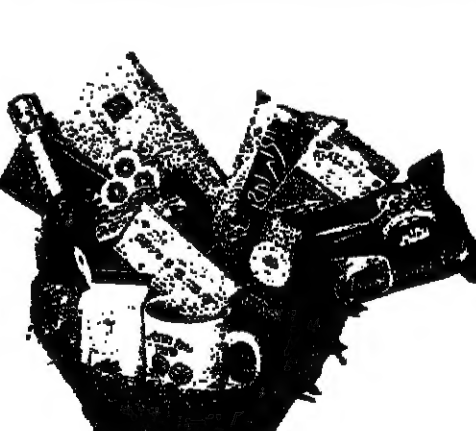
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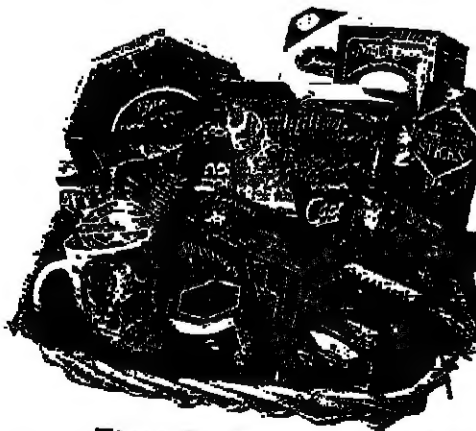
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The Scandinavian scandal quiets

Norway hopes other nations will quit wailing about its whaling

By MARY WILLIAMS WALSH

OSLO — The votes aren't counted yet, in fact, they won't even be cast until next month. But the hardy men who hunt whales each summer off the rough Norwegian coast are already hoping this will be the year they are finally removed from the rolls of international environmental scourges.

Norway has stirred world passions since 1993, when it permitted its whalers to resume the annual hunt, despite a global moratorium imposed by the International Whaling Commission in 1986.

A few countries, like Canada, tolerate subsistence whaling by native peoples, and Japan conducts "scientific whaling." But only Norway has gone so far as to let its fishermen openly hunt whales for commercial trade, and Norway has reaped a tempest as a result.

Protesters have flocked to these shores in recent years, attacking abattoirs, scuttling whaling boats in their berths, and, in the case of the California-based Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, ramming a Norwegian Coast Guard ship.

But this summer, an uncharacteristic peace has prevailed on Norwegian waters. There was one unexplained fire aboard a Norwegian craft early in the season. But aside from that possible act of sabotage, the usual fleets of protesters have not appeared.

"I don't think they have much support any more, because they told a story that wasn't true," says Jan Odin Olavsen, 48, a whaler from the northern community of Laknas. His five-man boat filled its 17-whale quota in just one week this summer.

"There are a lot of whales," he concludes. "The stock is not threatened at all." Here in Oslo, the major Norwegian environmental groups say Olavsen is right: It is now safe to hunt one species of whale, the minke, which grows to nine meters in length. The minke (Norwegian for "lesser") is the only whale that may be hunted under Norwegian regulations.

Norway won an important symbolic victory earlier this year, when a majority of delegates to the triennial Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, held in Zimbabwe, voted to allow limited trading in such minke products as meat and blubber.

The minke remains on the endangered list, since removing it required a two-thirds majority. But whaling interests believe the convention's 57-51 vote in Norway's

favor — a first — will give an important nudge to the all-important International Whaling Commission, scheduled to meet in Monaco in October.

"There's been an interesting development in the past year," says Norwegian Whaling Commissioner Kaare Bryn. "I'm a bit uncertain, but what we may be seeing is a chance, for the first time in 10 or 15 years, to find a compromise between the whaling nations and the anti-whaling nations."

Bryn admits that Norway had much to do with the near-extinction of the huge blue whale and other species. But he argues that it has been decades since Norway has practiced the industrial techniques that almost wiped out the great whales.

Today, Bryn says, Norway's 150 or so whalers are all fishermen, whaling for just a few weeks each summer under government supervision.

They operate small, coastal fishing boats, not huge, floating factories. And their estimate, that there are about 110,000 minke whales in the northeastern Atlantic, has been accepted by the International Whaling Commission. Norway's 1997 quota of 580 minke whales is an acceptable fraction of that population, Bryn says.

Some people are listening. Last January, IWC commissioners met informally in Grenada and a central topic of their discussion was, reportedly, how to reach some accommodation between whaling nations and those — like the US — that oppose the hunt. One proposal was to keep the moratorium on factory whaling but to lift the ban for small, Norwegian-style boats.

This prospect alarms environmentalists. Richard Page, a whale campaigner at Greenpeace UK, said his group believes that if the ban on minke whaling were lifted at Norway's behest, it would throw open the doors to over-whaling of rarer species by less conscientious nations.

Asked why Greenpeace didn't come to Norway to protest this summer, Page said that since a new government was establishing itself in Oslo, his group wanted to concentrate its lobbying efforts in the corridors of the capital, not on the waves of the northern coast. He said Greenpeace might return to its waterborne tactics next summer. (Los Angeles Times)



Animal Kingdom

A royal dilemma

Can the monarchy survive in a society badly shaken by the loss of its princess?

By PATT MORRISON

LONDON — To employ a James Bond martini metaphor, the people of Britain have been stirred — and the House of Windsor has been shaken.

Now — following the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales — comes the question that all of last week's lesser questions of precedent and protocol had been leading up to: Should the debate be about the monarchy of the future, its nature and character, or the future of the monarchy and whether it even has one? From the flower-bearing millions, the monarchy learned, belatedly and again, that "us" and "them" are dangerous pronouns to be on the wrong side of.

In large measure because of those millions, the Princess of Wales in death may accomplish what she found herself thwarted at in life: changing the royal rules at unprecedented speed.

Already there are indications that the Diana divide was not only between people and palace, but between royal generations — and that Charles, the Prince of Wales, may come out of it smelling like a rose for his part in making precedent bend to the moment.

Until last week, betting men might have wagered that the heir to the throne was odds-on to step out of the succession, marry his first love and grow organic vegetables. But through the standard process of oblique leaks, it was emerging that Charles had pushed for the funeral concessions and innovations, backed by Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Britain's Channel 4, quoting a "senior official close to court circles," said it was the queen who had insisted that, because Diana was no longer a member of the royal family, her body "was on no account to be brought to any of the royal palaces" but sent to a private mortuary for a private funeral.

Her ally was her private secretary and Diana's brother-in-law, Sir Robert Fellowes, married to Diana's sister Jane, and the liaison to the Spencer family, which also supported a private funeral.

Charles was airborne to London from Paris, London's *Sunday Times* reported, negotiating by air phone to be allowed to return Diana's body to St. James's Palace. At one point, Channel 4 reported, Charles had a blazing row with Sir Robert Fellowes in which Sir Robert was told to "impale himself



The royal family poses in Windsor Castle on the day of Prince William's confirmation in March of this year.

(AP)

on his own flagstaff." The palace has called that story "nonsensical speculation."

Until Diana's arrival on the scene, Charles was looked to as the agent of change, arguing for a modern monarchy, musing over the worth of other religions, setting up his Prince's Trust for Britain's young, poor and homeless.

It was he who had reached across 50 years of post-abdication bitterness when he visited the out-cast Duchess of Windsor, calling her "Aunt Wallis." Even her death occasioned criticism for "callous" treatment at the hands of the monarch. And Britain had once hated her as intensely as it loved Diana.

Whatever the dissonance of their personal lives, Charles and Diana had much of their work in common — the young and disadvantaged chief among them — and on the day in 1996 that both a mar-

riage and a royal team were dissolved by divorce, they sat together on a sofa at Kensington Palace and wept for both a marriage and a team that had failed.

Charles was savaged by talk-show callers for walking in his ex-wife's funeral procession in a blue suit instead of a black one, until it was learned that he wore it because Diana liked him in it.

The royals last week took hesitant advantage of Blair's media savvy and took up the visual language of the modern media. They sent palace spokesmen out to speak to cameras; the royals awkwardly viewed tribute flowers outside the Scottish castle of Balmoral and at London's Kensington Palace, Diana's residence; and, finally, there was the queen's speech to the nation the day before the funeral.

Blair's media guru was invited to the daily planning meetings, it was reported, and a troika of Charles, Blair and the Spencer family had approval over each decision.

Some court observers believe last week's close call gives Charles more leverage to persuade the institution to move into the 21st century with the rest of the nation.

Without direct political or military power, the monarchy not only needs to do but to be seen to do. And that means dealing with the press, which has been the unwinnable struggle of the modern monarchy. How much press is enough, how much is too much, and how, like Dr. Frankenstein, can the royals keep the monster

they had a hand in creating from destroying them? The media courtship, sometimes a waltz and sometimes a slam-dance, is trickier than it seems. Diana's brother's savaging of the press was something the royal family could never do itself, but it stands to benefit from at least temporary institutional remorse.

Charles stepped into this opportunity that Diana's brother created, and his plea that the press leave his motherless sons alone elicited remorseful pledges of cooperation Monday from editors who have "taken the pledge" not to use paparazzi grab-shots of the boys.

One enduring principle of monarchy is that no one is irreplaceable: the king is dead, long live the king. Diana has now been characterized as the irreplaceable princess, whose touch-and-hug style ironically revived a kind of atavistic magic that the monarchy had worked to discard, like the ancient belief that the British sovereign's touch could cure scrofula.

Once the couple divorced, speculation had only grown about whether there will ever be a King Charles III. His stepping aside would make the beloved Diana's son the heir apparent, but Charles the Parent also knows it would, on the queen's death, thrust his young son into lifelong harness that even the queen, at a self-disciplined 25 years of age, did not want so soon. And there is another consideration: that Charles, having failed at marriage, will more likely cling to fulfilling the only other duty demanded of him in life, to become king.

The marital split that also split the loyalties of the country may heal themselves both in the memorial charity fund established in Diana's memory, and in the person of Prince William; resenting Charles means resenting William's sole surviving parent.

Antimonarchist sentiments have historically been quelled by royal tragedy, as in 1870, when Queen Victoria's heir almost died of the same typhoid that killed his father. Yet this royal tragedy may revive those sentiments.

Optimistic royalists will say that the aftermath of Diana's death offers a healing balm. The crown, they will point out, has survived four regicides — one by the king's wife — two revolutions and an abdication, countless plots and coups and foreign wars, passages of illegitimate children, a schism with the Catholic world.

In stable times, they note, people want change. But in tumultuous ones — in times of war or tragedy — they want stability.

Can the royals survive such fluid expectations? It has been obvious that they no longer lead; can they now even keep up enough to follow? Four hundred years ago, Shakespeare's play about King Henry V had the king, on the eve of the great victorious battle of Agincourt, agonizing over the burdens of human lives that then rested upon rulers: "What have kings that privates have not too, save Ceremony, save general ceremony? And what art thou, thou idol Ceremony? ... O ceremony, show me but thy worth!"

(Los Angeles Times)

Japanese mobsters feared more violent

By MARY JORDAN and KEVIN SULLIVAN

TOKYO — It was like a scene from *The Godfather*. Four mob assassins walked into a crowded coffee shop in an expensive hotel, pulled out .45-caliber handguns and pumped seven bullets into a rival don, blasting him out of his chair and spraying blood all over the cafe.

But this wasn't New York or Sicily. Last week's brazen, daylight assassination happened in the Japanese port city of Kobe, and it has triggered the biggest crack-down in years on the country's organized crime syndicates, known as *yakuza*. A mass manhunt involving 5,000 police officers

has been mobilized against the Yamaguchi-gumi, the country's largest crime family, looking for guns and trying to stop a mob power struggle that apparently led to the killing.

At least 11 gang members have been arrested, and scores of *yakuza* homes and offices have been raided. At Sunday's funeral for the slain mob boss, Masaru Takumi, about 400 police officers showed up, photographing the 700 mourners and frisking the pallbearers.

Perhaps even more significantly, the assassination has raised police fears that the long-tolerated domestic crime family is turning into a violent organization with ties to foreign mobs, especially Chinese crime syndicates.

Takumi, 61, was the Yamaguchi-gumi's second most powerful figure and its chief financial officer, controlling millions of dollars.

Police officials regarded him as an old-school moderate who advocated less involvement in drugs and violence and tried to steer the crime family into legitimate business ventures. After Kobe's devastating 1995 earthquake, members of Takumi's organization helped in rescue efforts and made donations, winning public thanks.

Takumi disagreed with more militant gang members who sought new forms of revenue through links with Thai and Malaysian prostitution rings, as well as Chinese criminals manufacturing illegal compact discs for pachinko machines — an extraordinarily lucrative gambling venture. Some *yakuza* gangs have recently forged ties with Chinese syndicates to smuggle illegal immigrants into Japan on boats for up to \$25,000 apiece.

After Takumi's killing, police began investigating a violent faction within his crime family that was "excommunicated" last week.

Those more militant members are said to have disagreed with the way Takumi was running the family.

Atsushi Mizoguchi, a journalist who has been following the *yakuza* for 30 years, said in an interview that the killing is "a symbol of the chaos" in the *yakuza*.

"The traditional *yakuza* is in the process of dismantling. It is becoming more criminal, more underground and more like the overseas mafia," he says.

Mizoguchi said the *yakuza*'s sources of income are changing, its membership is declining, and its

ties with Thai, Malaysian, Iranian and especially Chinese crime syndicates are increasing.

"It used to be the pride of the *yakuza* that they would never rob or steal from ordinary people, but that is no longer true," Mizoguchi said.

The recent, highly public incidents of violence have reinvigorated Japan's resolve to weaken the *yakuza*, an effort

under way since passage of a 1992 anti-mob law that banned many of the crime families' public dealings. The latest available police statistics show that 33,000 *yakuza* members were arrested in 1995, most frequently on drug-related charges.

According to the National Police Agency, there are nearly 80,000 *yakuza* members in Japan. But other analysts say the number has dropped to 60,000 over the last two or three years, from a peak of as many as 180,000 in the early 1980s.

Many older members are leaving as the nature of the crime syndicates changes, as police become more aggressive in prosecuting mobsters, and as the public and legitimate businessmen no longer tolerate the collusion with the mob that existed for decades in the construction industry, unions, banks, stores and other mainstream businesses.

The country's tougher economic times also have hurt the *yakuza*. As organizations from local department stores to the national government streamline and cut costs, many are no longer willing to make payoffs to the mob as a cost of doing business.

The United States and Japan currently are involved in a shipping dispute over the high cost of bringing cargo into this country. Many foreign shippers say that because of mob control of waterfront operations, it costs less to ship cargo across the Pacific than it does to move it across the dock to the trucks that will deliver it in Japan.

Under public pressure, many companies also have stopped paying thousands of dollars to specialized gangs known as *sakaiya* in exchange for the gangs' promises not to disrupt their shareholders' meetings. Because Japanese companies put a premium on harmony at these meetings, they became vulnerable to this lucrative form of extortion.

Still the collusive ties with business exist, particularly in the entertainment and gambling industries.

For decades, the *yakuza* has been tolerated on the general principle that if the crime families did not go too far, police would not come after them. Sometimes the police and the public even enlisted the gangs' help. Businesses hired mobsters to bust unions, and police used *yakuza* muscle to control communist agitators or other disruptive groups. Partly because of the Japanese aversion to filing lawsuits, ordinary citizens turned to the gangs to settle small-time disputes. (The Washington Post)

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Fiscal responsibility

In the wee hours of yesterday morning, the cabinet approved a NIS 2.3 billion budget cut for 1998, but not without numerous ministers acting out a parody of their role as defenders of their narrow political turf over the national interest.

The cabinet had already decided on the overall size of the budget cut; this meeting was to decide how it would be allotted among the ministries. It is understandable that in some cases ministers would argue that the balance of cuts should be shifted, while meeting the overall budget target. What happened, however, is that the ministers came armed with budget requests that, according to Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, would have increased the budget by NIS 15 billion.

One of those asking for an increase was Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. In the end, Mordechai settled for a reduction in the proposed cut to NIS 400 million, and then voted for the budget. Mordechai is to be commended for, in the end, recognizing that as vital as Israel's defense needs are, they are not served by fiscal irresponsibility that will hurt defense spending more in the long run.

Other ministers were not so far-sighted, and along the way engaged in the kind of shameless demagoguery that unfortunately has become taken for granted in budget debates. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, for example, presides over a ministry whose mission is no less important to the future of the nation than the defense ministry. No one argues with the critical need to invest in education, even from an economic point of view. But Hammer smeared the moral sanctimony on thickly, claiming that a government that would cut the education budget had "no heart."

Ministers Levy, Hammer, Matza, and Yishai all accused the government of insensitivity to the "weaker sectors" of society. This accusation is often bandied about, as if any social spending cut is against the interest of such weaker sectors. In this case, all the Treasury is proposing is cutting child allowances to families with fewer than four children with incomes above 170 percent of the national average. Such a measure is hardly a blow to the downtrodden; if anything, it is questionable as a disguised tax increase.

If the ministers comprising the social chorus were serious about the welfare of the con-

stituencies they were defending, they would be as least as zealous about budget cutting as the Treasury. More importantly, they would break out of the time-honored political convention that equates caring about what a ministry does to increasing its budget.

Though the raw size of budget is one measure of a society's priorities, the question should be turned back on these ministers: if education, health, and employment are so important, why do you seek to add money to your ministry without making any internal structural reforms? Ministers generally take the basic structure of their ministry for granted, and then, robot-like, seek to fund that structure more generously. It is also evidently taken for granted that the public measures the effectiveness of ministers in the shallowest of terms, looking simply at who threatens the most and extracts the most budget in exchange. In fact, the ability to avoid the budget ax should be one of the least significant measures of effectiveness. Moreover, there is no evidence that the public is actually as shallow as ministers assume it to be.

In the rare instances in which ministers have actually cooperated fully in cutting their own budgets with a view toward the national interest — then-defense minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1985, for example — the public has responded positively. Nor were economics minister Yossi Beilin and Science Minister Michael Elitan considered weak or ineffective for proposing to abolish their ministries entirely.

While there is unfortunately a paucity of precedent on which to base this judgment, the public would most likely appreciate ministers who led their ministries toward doing more with less money, rather than blindly following the standard "give me more" model.

The modest budget cut that passed in the cabinet will meet stiff opposition in the Knesset, and is unlikely to pass intact. The danger ahead is that the over all size of the "cut" will survive, but much of it will metamorphose into new taxes. Since Netanyahu's George Bush-style "no new taxes" pledge in July 1996, he is sounding much less definite on this issue. The proposed cut is not so large that Netanyahu can afford to whitewash it away with new taxes, which themselves take the economy in the wrong direction. He had better face down budget-hungry ministers now, than voters with long memories later.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FAILURE OF APPEASEMENT

Sir, — Those of us who lived through the 1930s hope that the western democracies have learned their lesson of the failure of their appeasement policy then.

We all recall the arrival of Mr. Chamberlain at Croydon, waving a piece of paper and declaring: "I have brought peace in our time — I have it here signed by Herr Hitler." That "peace in our time" lasted about a year.

The Oslo Accords were also supposed to bring "peace in our time" and we are again told not to pay heed to Arafat's incitement in Arabic against Israel and the Jewish people. The Palestinian Covenant, calling for the destruction of Israel, is unaltered and unchanged after four years. In those four years the terror has not abated and the Jewish people continue to pay in blood and tears for this "peace process."

I hope Secretary of State Madeleine Albright recalls that it was that appeasement policy that made her parents and herself, then a young girl, into refugees just as it made me one. It is our sincere prayer that she will explain to her Arab and Arabist friends that she has personally experienced the failure of appeasement and even-handedness and that she will not levy to inflict similar "requests" to the only true democracy in the Middle East today, as was done to her land of birth only 59 years ago.

EMANUEL FISCHER

Jerusalem.

NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST

Sir, — Has anyone yet noticed that American Jews are assimilating very rapidly? Our policymakers should take note, because assimilated American Jews do not support Israel when it's not in fashion. They prefer their new friends, the non-Jews of the world, and these have no use for a Jewish Israel.

Jewish America is disappearing. Gone is the die-hard commitment and uninhibited vocal support that we once counted on from our blood-brothers. America's Jewish leaders and laity are intermarried, intermarrying, and legitimizing intermarriage. When push comes to shove they will pander to the base hypocrisy of gentile fashion-setters and rationalize the perfidy of their venal role-models.

It is obvious that the only feeling Jews that will be left in America before long will be those who are fully committed to Torah Judaism. Our national self-interest lies in the strengthening of Torah Judaism and the Jewish movement abroad. It's the only way to attract our fellow Jews in America back to the support of Israel. These are the only Jews who are really able to command the respect of the American government and elicit its cooperation, no matter which party is in power.

SARAH LEVIN

Jerusalem.

A HEARTY LAUGH

Sir, — Sam Orbaum's "God's dinner or Heaven's kitchen" (Not Page One, July 29) was one of the most entertaining pieces of writing my husband and I have enjoyed in a long time.

I read the article aloud to him and our sharing was interrupted many times by the heartiest laughs we have had in a long time. And with or hearts so heavy about the stalled peace talks and the bombings, the soldiers' deaths and injuries and the slaughter on our highways...

Well, a hearty laugh is a rare and blessed event.

HAROLD and CELIA SCHAWRITZ

Jerusalem.

BEILIN'S PROPOSAL

Sir, — Yossi Beilin's proposal to form a pressure group for a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon is a great idea. As soon as he and the co-sponsors of the group move to Kiryat Shalom, Ma'alot, or other northern border towns or settlements, together with their families, to live and work there, to send their children to the local schools, I will follow. After all, it is a beautiful part of the country.

The people of southern Lebanon and the army of General Lahad can also relocate as they too need to be safe and under our protection.

DORIS HAIMSON

Ashkelon.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

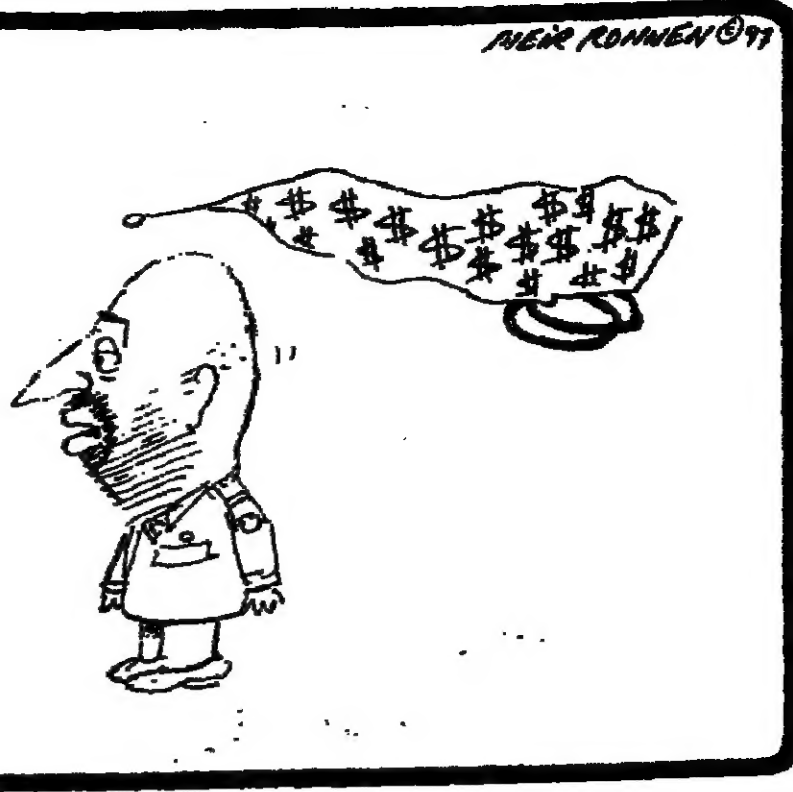
60 years ago: On September 19, 1937, *The Palestine Post* blamed the Polish government for anti-Jewish excesses in Warsaw, Kielce and other provincial towns where large numbers of Jews were beaten during the New Year period. In Danzig Nazis disturbed Jewish New Year services. Antisemitic agitation continued in Romania.

A foundation stone was laid for a new Jewish workers' quarter on a hill near Sheikh Abreik in Haifa.

50 years ago: On September 10, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that in Hamburg the *Exodus 1947* "illegal" immigrants to Palestine held aboard the second "floating cage" — *Empire Rival* — disembarked quietly, apparently fooled by a fake message, but those of the third ship, *Runnymede Park*, battled furiously for over an hour before they were beaten into submission by 400 troops of the British Airborne Division and Military Police. Thirty-three refugees were injured.

The very last to be dragged on the deck was a young blonde girl, still singing the Jewish anthem. She fought on until she lost consciousness.

France declared that it was ready to accept the *Exodus 1947* refugees who wished to enter voluntarily. Alexander Zvielli



Welcome, Ms. Albright

The fact that you left the Middle East virtually for last in your world travels raises expectations about your visit well beyond what you probably want. But there are advantages to a visit accompanied by high expectations.

Everyone knows that you cannot leave empty-handed or merely with a commitment to resume dialogue between low-level Israelis and Palestinians. Everyone is getting prepared, and considers it a duty to do something to pacify you — something which provides you with the opportunity for a successful visit.

The Middle East is experiencing one of its toughest moments. Yasser Arafat feels he has no choice but to embrace Hamas leaders. Binyamin Netanyahu feels he has no alternative other than to declare a halt to the interim agreement and to withhold money owed to the Palestinians. And terrorist incidents are turning Netanyahu's slogan of "peace with security" into a pathetic promise.

The talks with Syria and Lebanon have stopped completely, as have the multilateral talks; the regional economic committee, by its own account, is on the verge of failure; the Arab boycott of Israel is resuming and the danger of violence erupting — whether in the form of war or otherwise — is more tangible than it has been since the Madrid Conference.

We in Israel might end up paying in blood for this impasse, but for the American administration it would be a stinging failure, especially in the wake of what seemed to be a smashing success during Clinton's first term in office. We who live in the Middle East cannot afford this. Nor can you.

You have been designated to fulfill three roles in this region: policeman, judge and kindergarten teacher. Beware of all three. To the policeman, each

YOSSI BEILIN

side will propose to force something on the other. You do not have a mandate to impose force and, even if you had, implementing it would have an adverse effect. The moment you try to apply pressure, you will come up against Israeli or Palestinian consensus against this pressure, even if such consensus does not exist on other issues. You are not a policeman.

Each side will propose to the

Put an end to the post-World War II world's longest international conflict

judge in you to listen and be convinced of the justice of his position. That is a tempting assignment, but it lacks significance. For, as in a Greek tragedy, each side has some just claims. Each side has a notable list of violations to the agreement, and each side will claim that the violations to which it admits are a direct result of the violations committed by the other side. You are not a judge.

As a kindergarten teacher, you will be expected to listen to both sides, and to sit them down together like two scolded children to discuss all of the unresolved issues which have not been solved over the last year and which will not be solved even if you leave us with a sigh of relief, and say that at least you are happy to see the talks resuming. You are not a kindergarten teacher.

THERE are those who suggest that you invest most of your effort in the Syrian-Israeli channel.

Don't escape down that path. Assad will charm you with his history lessons, but do not believe you've won his heart. He has already proven to our government, the previous government, that even the entire Golan does not justify normalization on his part. Only if he remains alone in the "rejectionist camp" is there a chance of his being convinced to alter his policy.

The Israel-Palestinian problem is at the same time the most difficult to solve and the most promising. Among other reasons, this is because the main question here is "when" and not "if."

The interim agreement was reached long ago, and the main points of the final arrangement are clear to everyone. Including you. There is even a date for its implementation: May 4, 1999. Do not forget. This is the most crucial date of the Israeli-Arab conflict, and it will arrive during President Clinton's current term.

The proposal being crystallized over the last months between Washington, Jerusalem and Ramallah is the most reasonable and best balanced: to speed up talks on the final status, to suspend redeployment for six months if by then no agreement is reached about the final border, a tangible commitment on the part of the Palestinian Authority to combat terrorism with a firm hand, and a commitment from Israel to avoid taking unilateral steps which contradict the spirit of Oslo.

Only consent about these components will turn your visit into a success. You can do it because you are not a policeman, nor a judge, nor a kindergarten teacher. You are a representative of the only superpower in the world requesting to put an end to the post-World War II world's longest international conflict.

The writer is a Labor MK.

Well done

PINCHAS LANDAU

But no formal commission is needed, because the answers are visible to the naked eye, and require no unearthing.

For some years this writer, along with the Israeli press in general, has been struggling to unravel a knotty mystery: why have countries of every size, geographic location, political leaning etc., been able to sell state-owned companies large and small, through every known privatiza-

What went right in the sale of Bank Hapoalim?

tion method, whilst Israel has failed to get its privatization program moving?

Had the Hapoalim sale been achieved through the use of some stunning advance in financial engineering, a marketing gimmick, a display of genius or legend — by any of the people involved — or, conversely, had the sale been made in a patently biased or suspicious manner, or for a giveaway price — we could say that this government is cleverer, more cunning or more unscrupulous, than any of its predecessors, and that's why it managed to do what had never been done before.

However, what actually took place is a sale devoid of any sophistication, financial or otherwise. The price paid was much higher than had been anticipated, to the point where many analysts wonder how the buyers are going to get a good return on their money. And the losing contenders have voiced only praise for the way the sale process was handled.

In other words, difficult though this is to believe, the evidence points overwhelmingly in one direction: the government

announced what it was going to do and the officials responsible went ahead and did it in the most straightforward and direct manner. That the government involved was the present one, which has not distinguished itself by always doing what it said, only emphasizes how remarkable, almost unique, this achievement is.

This has implications both for the past and the future. If in order to succeed you only need to do things right, not to be terribly smart, then clearly the record of failure of previous governments reflects their inability to reach even this level of functionality. But why did they fail so miserably, given the low barrier to success? The answer is that they, in sharp contrast to the Netanyahu government, didn't really want to succeed.

Netanyahu & Co. made the same noises as their predecessors. The difference is that they meant it. It turns out that in the 1990s all a government has to do to sell its holdings is let go. The intermediaries and buyers will do the rest. It requires a major effort not to sell state holdings — the sort of effort we witnessed in Israel for years in respect to Israel Chemicals and, more recently, Bezeq.

Only this relentless determination on the part of a government to frustrate, interfere, block and botch can prevent large companies from moving into private hands.

In other words, privatization is the natural order of events. Left to its own devices, the economy will see to it that state-owned enterprises are privatized.

The twofold achievement of the Netanyahu government is that it proved this dictum applies in Israel, thereby showing that the past failures were the seller's fault (and not an indication of a lack of serious buyers); and that, by proceeding steadily along the path it charted for itself, it hit the jackpot — and deservedly so.

The writer is a journalist and economic commentator.

No alternative

DAVID KINCHE

The Albright visit is upon us, hard in the wake of the most traumatic weekends this country experienced in many a year. Albright will undoubtedly have been fully briefed on the mood existing here. She will have been told about the war of words that has engulfed this country regarding the most basic questions affecting our future: withdrawal from Lebanon, the Oslo Accords, negotiations with Syria.

The discord is not only between government and opposition: Peres criticizes Barak, Barak berates Beilin, while government ministers are at loggerheads over the Lebanese question and over Oslo — one minister claims the Oslo Accords are dead, another, David Levy, warns that he will not remain in a government that allows Oslo to become redundant. A third minister, Avigdor Kahalani, voices his fears that Israel might be at war by the end of 1998, while, at the same time, the prime minister assures us that by the end of his present term in office we will, indeed, be blessed with both peace and security.

Confusing? No wonder so many people would like to see Albright swoop down in a mixture of Mighty Mouse, Batman, and a modern day Messiah, in order to bring to our region, at the very least, a return to sanity.

Albright, however, is no miracle maker. The gulf between the contending parties cannot be bridged in a "quickie" visit. In order to get the peace process back on track, an enormous amount of patience and hard work, as well as a little arm-twisting, must be the order of the day for Albright and her team, and the visit this week must be seen as the opening gambit of a long, renewed effort, and not an end in itself.

In all the disarray and confusion which so characterizes the political scene in Israel today, the one hard bedrock on which future policy has to be fashioned is the much reviled Oslo Agreement. Ministers and rabbis may denounce it. Women in Green may become hysterical over it, but it is still the one beacon which must guide our future relation with Palestinians.

The agreement may not be perfect but given the immensely complex situation which had existed between Israel and the Palestinians before Ron Pundak and Yair Hirschfeld initiated the Oslo talks, the Oslo Accords were the best that could have been achieved.

Moreover, before the death of Oslo is officially pronounced, the alternatives to Oslo must be examined. A return to the intifada? A multiplication of terrorist acts? A return to hostility with Egypt and possibly Jordan? An end to hope and a victory for despair?

Albright will no doubt examine the alternatives very carefully during her visit here. Her conclusion will be that the Oslo Accords will have to be implemented. Arafat will not be able to wriggle out of taking drastic action against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad infrastructure; Netanyahu will be hard put to continue collective punishment or to procrastinate on further stages of withdrawal. The Americans will insist on a plan of action that will enable a measure of mutual confidence to be restored. Their insistence will test both Arafat's and Netanyahu's true intentions and maybe the people of Israel may yet get to know where our government is really heading.

Albright will also be visiting Damascus. Rumors abound in Israel that Netanyahu may prove more flexible on the Syrian front, in order to show that he really is moving towards peace. Flexibility with the Syrians could also help solve the impossible south Lebanese situation, and would serve the interests of the Americans for whom Syria is more important than the Palestinians.

The prime minister's religious and right-wing electorate would accept compromise on the Golan more easily than in Judea and Samaria; his objective of re-election would suffer less from coming to terms with the Syrians than with the Palestinians.

For all these reasons, we may yet see a sudden flurry of political activity on the Syrian front, and in much the same way that the Begin government was willing to sacrifice Sinai in order to uphold its position in Judea and Samaria, our present government might do the same with regards to the Golan.

Yet in the long run it is with the Palestinians that we have to live. As long as hatred, bigotry and ignorance of each other govern relations between Israelis and Palestinians, there will not be true peace in the Holy Land.

The writer is a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry and chairman of the Israel Council of Foreign Relations.

Guys and dolls, girls and trucks

A Tel Aviv day-care center has turned traditional gender roles upside down, Allison Kaplan Sommer discovered on a recent visit.

It's mid-morning at the WIZO day-care center on King George Street in Tel Aviv, and the place is abuzz with activity. Children are drawing and painting, playing with dolls, blocks, trucks and an assortment of other toys. Nothing could seem more typical. But a closer look reveals that something different is going on.

"Look at those clean, adorable babies!" exclaims Sara Maman, one of the day-care workers, as she supervises a group of two-year-old boys busy scrubbing baby dolls in basins of water. "That's right," she instructs them, "put the soap all over their bodies, wash their arms, their legs, and their tummies. Give their hair a good shampoo. Afterwards, we'll dry them off, rub on cream, put on their diapers and their clothes."

Outside in the yard, girls of the same age are busy on a little construction site, sawing wood, putting together nuts and bolts and painting walls with giant rollers of white paint.

This WIZO center is pioneering what it hopes will become a nationwide program promoting equal opportunity for men and women - starting from the earliest of ages. In an effort to counteract the social pressure that directs little girls toward dolls and boys toward building, and to signal that all possibilities are open to both sexes, staffers at the King George center are encouraging the children to participate in activities outside the stereotypes of their sexes.

This will be the third year that the King George center is formally implementing its gender-equality program. The program's initiator, Drorit Amitai-Dror, WIZO national educational supervisor in the Department of Early Age Care and Education, and Aliza Harris, director of the King George nursery, say that so far they are pleased with how it's been going.

The culmination of the project last year was an all-girls soccer game, where the girls played, and the boys stood on the sidelines, waved pom-poms, and cheered. By all accounts, both the boys and the girls had a wonderful time.

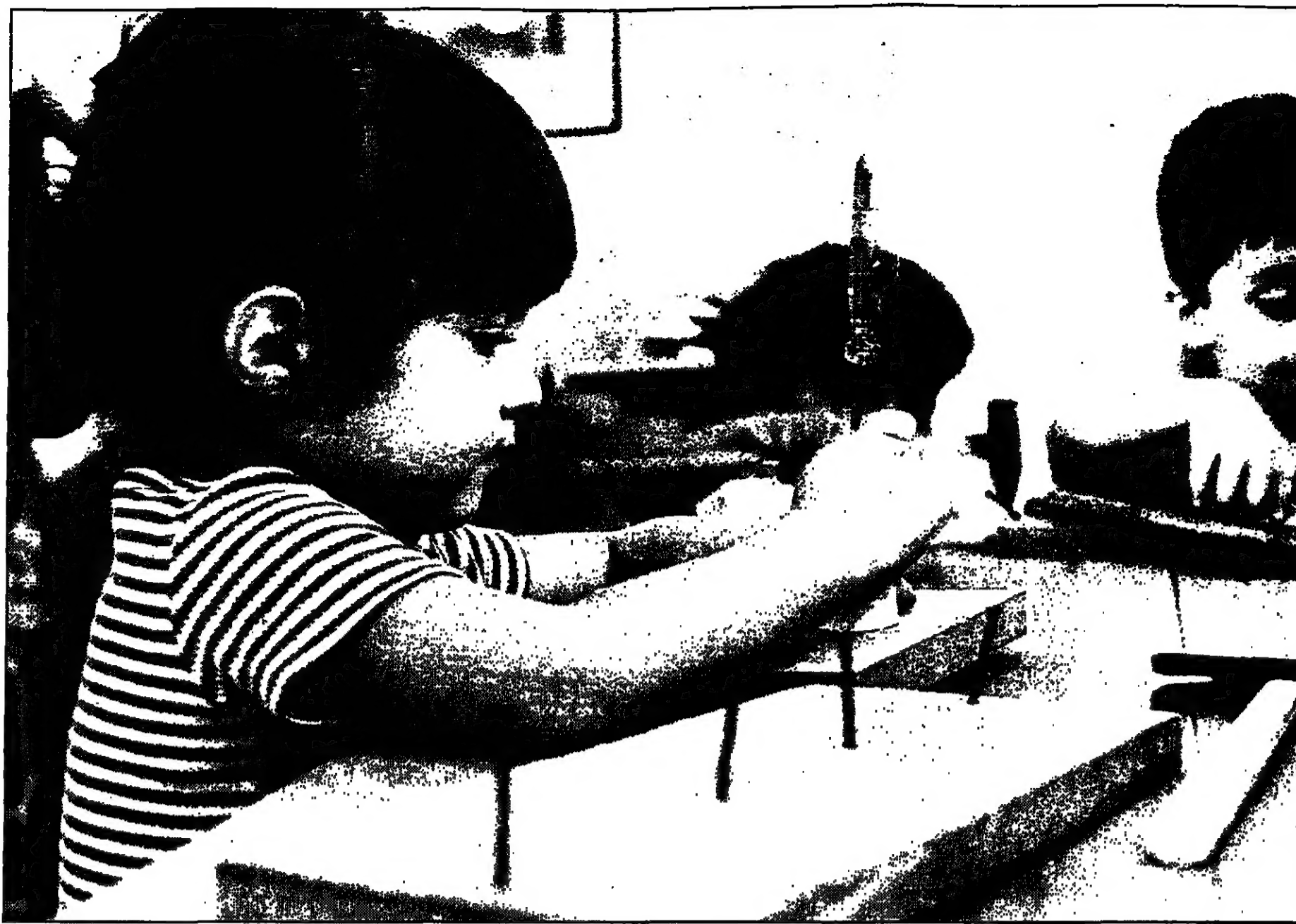
"The hope is to get children to learn equality during their most formative years," says Amitai-Dror, emphasizing that the aim is strictly educational, not political. The program is designed to help a little girl envision a future life that could include being an engineer, pilot or doctor, rather than limiting herself to the traditional images of housewife and mother.

"Our intention is not to obscure sexual identity but to encourage a young girl to be ambitious about her future," says Amitai-Dror. Similarly, she adds, boys should learn that cooking, cleaning, caring for babies and cheering on girls playing soccer are perfectly natural activities for them to pursue.

Harris stresses that while boys and girls at the center are encouraged to participate in activities that are not necessarily traditional for their sex, "nobody around here is forcing boys to play with dolls, or girls to play with trucks."

Since a program like this couldn't get off the ground without the cooperation and understanding of the entire WIZO nursery staff, Amitai-Dror and Harris didn't launch it before they had conducted a number of consciousness-raising sessions on society's expectations of men and women. In them, the staffers were encouraged to make a complete break with tradition regarding the center's routine. For example, they began to make a point of asking the girls to move chairs and desks, and the boys to clear up the doll corner or tidy the toy kitchen.

To make the message of broadened gender roles consistent, it needed to be extended to the children's parents. Thus, when children are asked to bring a cake



If WIZO's pioneering program takes hold nationwide, pictures like this will seem nothing out of the ordinary.

(Jonathan Bloom)

dren are asked to bring a cake from home for a party, it isn't automatically assumed that mothers will do the baking, or that only fathers will be asked to volunteer to do repairs at the nursery.

"In the beginning, it did all feel a little strange," admits Maman, who has worked at the King George WIZO center for 21 years. "But now it feels completely natural."

There were some unexpected challenges along the way. One problem the staff ran into early on in the program came during story time.

When the teachers read traditional fairy tales and other stories to the children, they found that, counter to the message the educators now want to promote, in most books the female characters were either passive heroines or evil witches, while the males were the heroes. This situation prompted them to create alternative stories, or provide critical commentary on the traditional tales.

The staff has even learned to reinforce the message in casual remarks. When one little girl picked up a toy telephone and began talking into it, a teacher asked, "Who are you talking to? It looks like you are making a very important call. You are clearly a very successful businesswoman."

According to Harris and the center staff members, the children are thrilled by the opportunity to participate in the whole range of activities and play a variety of roles. It seems they show no fear of becoming

"tomboys" or "sissies."

The only negative reactions have come from a handful of parents - mostly fathers of boys - who were worried that the program might weaken or feminize their sons.

And although the messages that appeared on the bulletin board put up last year for parents' reactions were mostly supportive, one father, signing himself "A Worried Dad," wrote: "Don't ruin my son and turn him into a woman."

Although Harris and Amitai-Dror insist that they are promoting education and not a social revolution, there have been wider-ranging repercussions. The husband of one of the staff members at the center complained that all the consciousness-raising going on at work was damaging his relationship with his wife. Perhaps she thought that if two-year-old boys could prepare dinner, change diapers and wash dishes, so could her husband.



A good shampoo is essential, and there's so much to do afterwards - drying dolly off, putting on cream, a clean diaper and some clothes.

(Jonathan Bloom)

PARENTING

Gain respect by giving it

By RUTH MASON

Wendy Mogel, Ph.D., is a Los Angeles psychologist who gave up her practice when she discovered Judaism. Her first child was a baby eight years ago when a friend invited her to a family Friday night service at her synagogue. Someone played guitar, and the women rabbis were friendly.

"I really did feel like coming home," she says.

Mogel took a year off from her practice to study Judaism intensively, and she has been studying ever since. The more she studied, the more she saw that "Judeism" speaks to the issues of parenting at the turn of the millennium very eloquently. She began leading parent guidance workshops based on Jewish teachings and is now a popular speaker and workshop leader in the Los Angeles area.

Mogel is currently working on a book on Jewish parenting in which she will write about 10 parenting problems and offer solutions from Jewish tradition. She would like to hear from Jewish parents who understand that the 10 commandments are the basis for Jewish parenting. She is also interested in hearing how parents have solved a tough parenting problem, especially problems related to modern parenting. She can be reached by E-mail at wmogel@aol.com.

In a recent visit to Israel, Mogel shared some of her thinking with the "Parenting" column. In this and the next two columns, we will pass some of her insights on to you.

The fifth commandment tells us to honor your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the earth. It's the only one of the Ten Commandments in which God speaks to deal with us, getting because the Torah recognizes that children are not naturally inclined to treat their parents with respect. In fact, although we are required to love God and to love our neighbors, Judaism does not require us to love our parents. Instead we are required to treat them with dignity and to care for them in their old age.

Remember those "Obedience Authority" buttons that were popular in the 1970s? Some baby-boomer parents take an ideological stand against any role distinctions that are "given" rather than earned. After fighting against oppressive power structures in their young adulthood, they are reluctant to demand honor and respect from their children simply because of their status as parents.

For other parents, their own childhood experience of "not having been heard" leads them to be cautious about being less than perfectly attuned to and deeply respectful of their children's feelings and needs. Yet paradoxically, parents who strive for equality and fairness in everything find themselves with demanding, greedy, anxious children.

Judaism is a religion of deed and not creed. Our thoughts and feelings belong to us; it is our behavior toward others that counts with God. By requiring respect from our children, we are not feeding our natural egos, but helping them build solid character. Respect will serve them throughout their lives. How can we do this in many traditional Jewish homes, as children are taught to wait and mother has to wait until father has finished eating, in school all students are when a teacher enters a classroom. A corpse is never left alone for one moment before it is buried. This is all for the sake of honor of parents of teachers and of the dead.

We can set some new standards for our families by teaching children how to sit at their parents' places at the table, to greet and make requests using a person's name or title, and to say "yes please" and "no thank you" when offered something.

This key to doing this: Practice what you preach. If you require honor, you must also demonstrate it. If you tell your child you're going to do something (positive or negative), do it. Bend down and look at children at eye level when talking to them. Remember, if we teach our children to "honor" their elders, they'll have a good reason to want to grow up.

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GARDENER'S CORNER

Our shrinking gardens

By BATSHEVA MINK
and DAVID BRAUNER

If the gardener can't go to the garden, then the garden must come to the gardener. So as gardens shrink to make way for wider roads or sink into the foundations of yet another tower block, plant lovers are forced to devise ingenious ways to keep in touch with nature. There is no place in any living space or work area where some type of plant cannot be grown. Whether inside or just outside the building, small-scale gardens can create a natural effect with a series of individual plants in assorted pots and planters. The gardener can opt for decorative leafy and flowering varieties, herbs, fruits and vegetables or sweet-smelling bouquets. Virtually any combination of whatever strikes your fancy will work.

The first pleasure of "container gardening" is the proximity of your botanical world to you and your lifestyle. Smaller plants and shrubs, which would be otherwise lost in a large outdoor garden, may be enjoyed in fine detail. Up close, you will see the delicacy of flowers and leaves.

Gardening should never be a chore. Often larger spaces can be more labor-intensive than ever intended, making the grower a slave to what should be a relaxing oasis. The design of your container garden should reflect your tastes and be an extension of your "live-in" area.

The older gardener and the disabled and handicapped can cope with a "potted garden" quite independently. Also, children can have the fun of looking after their own pots and boxes. Container gardening is the ideal method in town-house courtyards and patios, on apartment rooftops, balconies, stair landings (that have light) and in windows. Window boxes are an excellent choice for the apartment dweller, because plants can be viewed from inside and outside. A distinct advantage of container gardening is that one is not limited to the native type of soil. Gardeners can experiment with different soils and combinations to find the most suitable mixture for "fussy plants," for instance, those requiring an acid soil. Other advantages are that pots and boxes can be moved around like furniture, for more shade or sun, or simply because the fancy takes you. Also it is possible to have plants in flower all year round. The only tools one needs are a hand trowel and a watering can.

Plants can happily flourish in any container that will hold soil. Half tires, old sinks, discarded drawers are just as good as bought clay pots and plastic window boxes. The only exception is clear



glass. That's because roots hate to be exposed to light. Clean the container well before using to avoid bringing in diseases and pests. Make sure the container has good drainage, which can be achieved by lining the bottom with a thin layer of potsherds or small stones. For soil, ready-made mixtures are

available. Or try mixing your own. A good general mixture consists of three parts soil, two parts peat moss (Heb. kavul) and one part fine sand or volcanic rock (Heb. nuf). Don't forget to add some slow-release fertilizer to the mixture, according to the directions on the packet. Fertilize every four

months, except in the winter.

Because any type of restrictive gardening is essentially unnatural, plants grown in containers depend on their human friends for a little more care and attention than those planted in open ground. Of course, the most important need is water. Regular watering is a must, and the soil should never be allowed to dry out completely. Even a week-end without water during a heat wave can do irreversible damage.

Individual plants can either be grown in separate pots and planters, or many of the same kind planted together in larger containers. Or you can plant a variety of different plants in one container. If you do mix different plants in one pot, be sure their light requirements are the same. For instance, don't plant light-loving pelargoniums and light-shy ferns in the same container.

Among the more common flowering plants that are well-suited to container gardening are geraniums (pelargoniums), daisies (Bellis perennis; Heb. hinanit rav-shnatit or bat-hen), white Alyssum (Alyssum saxatile; Heb. melalanit rav-shnatit), white petunias (Petunia hybrida; Heb. petuniat haklayim) often with trailing green and white ivy (Hedera helix; Heb. kisus hahoresh).

One box might contain a collection of colorful leafy plants, interplanted with a few bulbs: The smaller Ponytail Palm (Beaucarnea recurvata) and the Dragon Tree (Dracaena marginata) make very good architectural plants with other botanicals growing around them. For shady spots, ferns or spider plants (Chlorophytum comosum vitatum) can be used as center pieces. For sunnier conditions and busy people who may forget to water, the curious shapes and



forms of cacti and succulents are ideal pot plants.

(Top left) Plants can flourish in half tires, old sinks, discarded drawers and kettles - even old shoes; (Above) Who said you need a large space for an impressive garden?

Tip of the Week

Small trees and shrubs can be more attractive when they are planted in containers. They can be moved around like furniture, for more shade or sun, or simply because the fancy takes you. Also it is possible to have plants in flower all year round. The only tools one needs are a hand trowel and a watering can.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact BatSheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, via e-mail: morris@ashur.cc.hu.ac.il

HEADS 'N' TAILS

Creature comfort

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

A hospital for wild animals? Yes - the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, together with the Tnuva Foods Company, recently opened just such an institution in Abu Kabir in Tel Aviv. This is a most welcome development, one all our animal-loving readers should note. Now anyone who finds a baby animal or an injured creature has somewhere to take it to.

This was not always the case. Over the years there were numerous frantic telephone calls and letters from people who had found injured, abandoned, or lost baby animals (or at least they assumed they were abandoned or lost). In many instances, there wasn't a lot of help to offer.

Once found an eagle with a broken wing, and even though I knew how to take care of it in general, it still took me two days to locate a veterinarian who would agree to operate on the wing. It then took seven weeks of nursing before the poor bird even attempted to fly again.

One would be amazed at the strange array of injured animals that comes into the hands of our readers. There was a baby fox with a broken leg that stumbled into the periphery of a Lag Ba'omer campfire in Jerusalem; a young caracal lynx that got into an unfortunate confrontation with a combine in the Negev; a bustard that broke a leg trying to free itself from a wad of shade-netting in a kibbutz field in the Negev; a vulture, feeding on an animal's carcass on a Galilee highway, that got itself struck by another vehicle; and a gazelle fawn caught in barbed wire at the perimeter of an army base in the Jordan Valley. That's not even mentioning a long list of nestlings and fledglings



crowns, ravens, falcons and barn owls found injured or otherwise incapacitated.

If you come into possession of a protected animal, the first thing you must do is notify the Nature Reserves Authority in Jerusalem. No person or institution is permitted by law to hold on to an animal that is a member of a protected species, without a special permit from the NRA.

The SPNI or the NRA will pick up the animal - or you can take it in yourself. If you want to apply for a permit to keep an animal after it has been reported and treated, I suggest you take it in personally.

Whatever the case, by taking an injured animal to the new hospital in Abu Kabir, you can be certain it will be well cared for by trained technicians and veterinarians specializing in the treatment of wildlife.

Anyone who finds a baby animal or injured wild creature now has a hospital to take it to.



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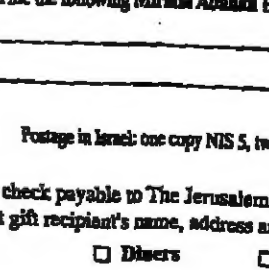
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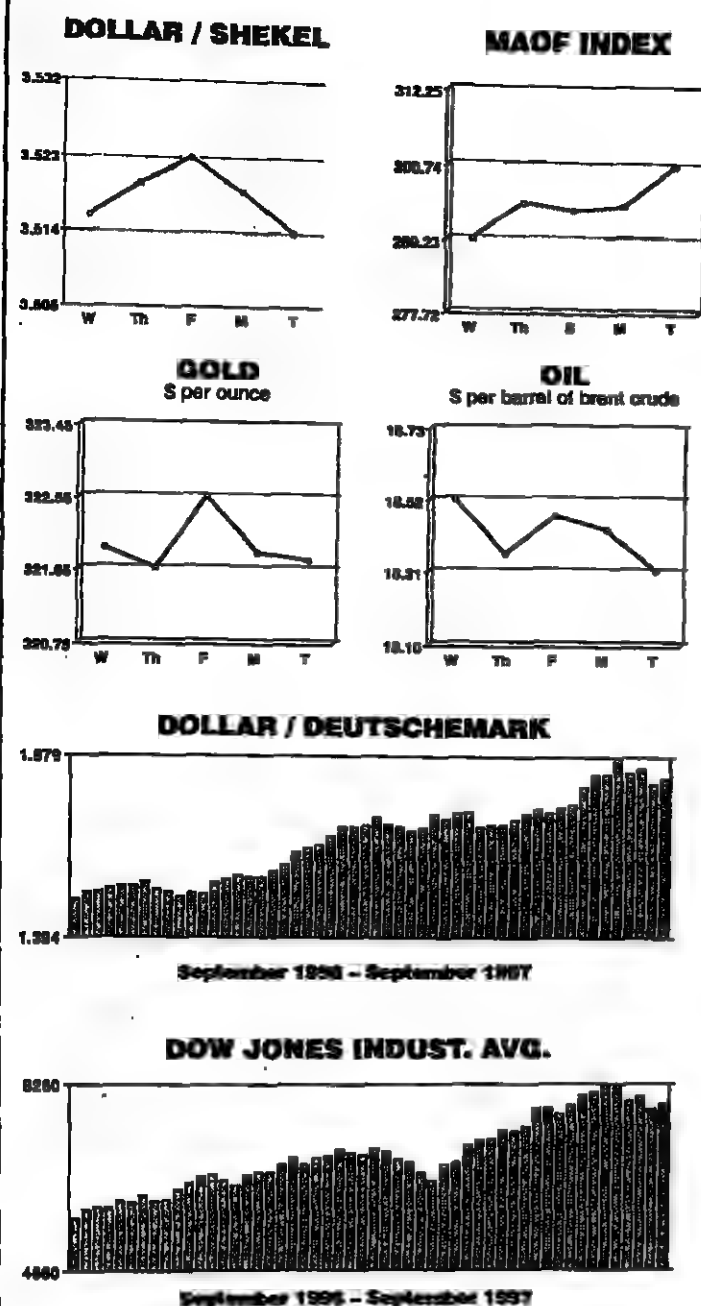
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MARKETS

in brief



\$56m. Islamic investment fund founded

Individuals and companies have founded a new Islamic investment fund with a paid-up capital of 17 million dinars (\$56.66 million), the Kuwait News Agency has reported Monday.

The company, Al-Oula Investments, will invest in real estate, industrial and agriculture projects, the stock exchange and investment funds, according to the state-run agency.

Islamic institutions traditionally don't accept or pay interest and, instead, share in profits.

Kuwait has one Islamic bank.

By DAN GERSTENFELD
and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Anti-trust Commissioner David Tadmor yesterday said he is investigating Koor Industries and Clal Israel on suspicion they are operating a cartel.

In a letter sent to Koor, Clal, and IDB Holdings, which controls Clal, Tadmor told the companies he is

considering declaring their joint holdings, particularly in Mashav Initiating and Development, a holding company with interests that include cement, fuel, and real estate, as "anti-competitive." "Such a practice violates our laws," Tadmor said.

He gave the firms 21 days to file their initial response and 90 days to submit a full report describing their joint activities. If the Anti-Trust

Commission declares Mashav a cartel, the two firms will have to dispose of their holdings, said Tadmor.

Another possible outcome would result in forcing the two to reach a new ownership structure deal, either by one party selling its holdings to the other, or by diluting its holdings by bringing in a third partner.

Koor previously said it favors offering Neshet, Mashav's wholly-

owned subsidiary and the country's only cement producer, on a US stock exchange. Clal opposes the move.

Koor CEO Binyamin Gaon and Mashav's general manager Yossi Rosem recently returned from the US, after a round of meetings with the Merrill Lynch investment bank.

Merrill Lynch intends to handle sale of the 30 percent of the shares of Neshet. Merrill Lynch is presently

negotiating with three of the world's six largest concerns, and a deal is expected to be signed with one of them by the end of the year.

In addition to Neshet, Mashav holds a 50% stake in cement container operator Ta'avura, a 100% stake in Av-Shal Investment & Trade, 54.2% in Granite Hacamel Investments, and a 20% holding in M.E.E. Gas.

Anti-trust Authority launches probe of Mashav's cartel status

MKs threaten to challenge Migdal's deal with Generali

By DAVID HARRIS

Michael Kleiner (Geshet), chief coalition representative on the Knesset Finance Committee, said yesterday he intends to retroactively challenge Bank Leumi's sale of Migdal Insurance to Assicurazioni Generali, unless the Italian insurance company transfers money to a fund for families of Holocaust victims within a week.

In June, Generali agreed to establish a \$12 million fund to make payments to families who claim they hold life insurance policies in the names of Holocaust victims which had never been redeemed.

Previously, both Generali and Migdal had refused to pay out such policies, even if the families had documentation, and the Finance Committee had threatened to initiate a boycott of Migdal.

Generali also agreed to set up an information hot line at its Trieste base and a variety of other steps. However, now Kleiner says four of the key measures have yet to be acted upon: • The Finance Committee and Generali executives agreed to create a five-person committee to manage the fund, but so far Generali has failed to approve the four representatives it was agreed the Knesset would appoint.

• Despite promising to allow Yad Vashem full access to Generali's archives, no such

arrangement has yet been made by the company.

• The company's representatives are dragging their feet in transferring documentation to Elisheva Ansbacher, the lawyer representing many of the Israeli families with claims against the company.

• No money has yet been forthcoming from the company for the fund.

Kleiner said he will give the company one week to rectify matters before he attempts to invalidate the company's 1996 purchase of Migdal Insurance. So far he has not explained how this can be achieved.

"This matter is now very serious," said Kleiner. "If a valid agreement with the Knesset is not upheld, why then should Israel uphold the agreement to the sale of Migdal?"

Generali's legal representative in Israel, Amihud Ben-Porat, is overseas and was unavailable for comment.

"The success of the tender wherein Israel's largest Bank, Hapoalim, was recently sold for an authentic price, begs the question why was Israel's largest insurer, Migdal, sold in a private, cloak-and-dagger manner, over which to this day a veil of silence remains," said one of the family members, Martin Stern.

He has lodged an official complaint with the Israel Bar Association's ethics committee concerning Ben-Porat's behavior regarding the fund.

Barak raises phone rates

By JUDY SEGEL

Overseas-calls provider Barak yesterday increased overseas dialing rates by 12 percent to all destinations - except the US and Canada, which will remain the same, and France, which will cost 96 agorot per minute instead of

NIS 1.22.

The company, whose dialing prefix is 013, is thus taking advantage of a stipulation in its license from the Communications Ministry which allows it to amend rates.

Barak managing director Avi Patir said that even after the rate

changes, the company still offers "the cheapest telecommunications basket" of any of the three competing firms.

The ministry set rates for six years, allowing for the companies to implement rises when the Consumer Price Index increases more than 8.5% in a year.

Israel Electric חברה החשמל

TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following:

TENDER	DESCRIPTION	Cost of tender documents, inc. VAT
603023	Year-long contract for the supply of technical advertisements (statutory and other) in newspapers	NIS 1,920

The rights and obligations according to the agreed terms will be for a period of six months. If the trial period is to the satisfaction of the Israel Electric Corporation, it will be extended to one year.

Option: To extend under the same terms, on a yearly basis, for a further two years, according to the discretion and considerations of the Corporation.

Pre-conditions:

- Bidders must have at least five years proven experience in advertising, working with commercial companies and at least two clients who have an annual advertising budget of at least NIS 3 million. Bidders must submit a list of clients which meet these requirements.
- Bidders must commit themselves to maintaining representative agencies in Haifa and Tel Aviv throughout the period of contract, which will be able to deal with day-to-day advertising needs. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of such agencies should be given. Bids must be signed by all parties and bodies which would be providing services within the framework of this tender. If a bid is submitted jointly by more than one bidder, the said bidders must agree to maintaining a joint book-keeping system via a-vis the Israel Electric Corporation. Associations and/or business relations formed in order to comply with the conditions of this tender must be established before submitting the bid, which must include the names of representative agencies and details of their professional experience.
- Confirmation of compliance with the above pre-conditions (paragraphs 1 and 2) from an accountant must be submitted.
- Bidders must attest that they have no impediment which would prevent them placing advertisements in any of the newspapers in which they will be asked to advertise.
- Bidders must submit a guarantee for complying with the bid in the form of a private check in the amount of NIS 250,000 (inc. VAT).

TENDER	DESCRIPTION	Cost of tender documents, inc. VAT
604055	Hermetically-sealed distribution network power transformers, 1000 KVA (specification TF-85)	NIS 1,080

Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices

Preliminary Conditions: Together with their offer, bidders must supply, to the Israel Electric Corporation (hereafter "the purchaser"), at their own expense and responsibility, the following:

- One sample of a 630 KVA or 1000 KVA (the biggest size in the tender) hermetically-sealed, oil-immersed distribution network power transformer with primary voltage which may vary from 10kV up to 22kV and with secondary voltage of 0.4 kV to be inspected (internally and externally) by the purchaser. After notification of award, the sample will be at the bidder's disposal.
 - Routine test report, noise level test report and type and special test reports, of transformers identical to those sought by the bid, according to paragraph 3.3 of Annexure B of the tender specifications. For this purpose, identical transformers are considered to be transformers with the same internal structure and with the same technical data as given in the tender specifications. Bidders who do not have such test reports will be required to: - Submit to the purchaser, together with their offer, the type and special test reports (in English) of similar transformers. - Guarantee to perform, should they be awarded the contract, type and special tests (at their own expense) as required in paragraph 3.3 of Annexure B of the tender specifications, and to submit the reports (in English) of these type and special tests at least one month before shipment of the ordered transformers.
 - Questionnaire (Annexure C, part C2 of the specifications) signed and completed separately for each transformer type offered (defined by rated voltage and rated power).
 - Manufacturer's Qualification Questionnaire, signed and completed.
 - Spare parts data, including the following information: The manufacturer's name and number of the spare part, the order number (if any) and the description of the spare part, and the reference number in drawing.
 - Quality Assurance Manual.
 - A preliminary "Test and Inspection Program" as required in paragraph 1.2.4 of Appendix A of Annexure B of the specifications.
 - Know-how agreement to the IEC's satisfaction (in case of know-how transfer).
 - Customers' list of similar transformers including quantities, type number, customer name, country and year of manufacture.
 - Certificate of compliance with ISO Standard 9001. In case of know-how agreement: - Certificate of compliance with ISO Standard 9001 of Know-how Supplier. - Certificate of compliance with ISO Standard 9002 of Know-how Recipient.
- All test reports, documents, data and written material must be submitted in either English or Hebrew. Written material in other languages will be rejected.

Period of Contract: The contract will serve as a framework agreement for a period of two years.

Quantity: 60 transformers 12.8/0.4 kV, 1000 KVA
23 transformers 22.0/0.4 kV, 1000 KVA

Last date for submitting bids for the above tenders: October 28, 1997, at 11 a.m.

- Additional pre-conditions (in addition to the pre-conditions stated for each tender):
- Participation in the tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for transactions with public bodies).
 - The Israel Electric Corporation reserves the right to allow a bidder who has not provided some required relevant documents, permits, licenses, etc. to submit them within a specified time that will be set by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Department, 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) for the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address by calling 04-881-6455/4. Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused, Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, at the above offices or at the Sales Department, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod Building, entrance B, 1st floor, Tel. 03-565-4679, 03-565-4641.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope and be placed in Tender Box No. 1 in the Pal-Yam Building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation). The Electric Corporation reserves the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

Japanese to study Dead Sea-Red Sea railway

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Nissho Iwai, Japan's sixth largest corporation and the 13th biggest worldwide, will begin conducting feasibility studies for a railroad that would run from the Israeli side of the Dead Sea to the Red Sea via Jordan, Koichi Naito, general manager of the company's Tel Aviv office, said yesterday.

The line is part of the company's plan to support bilateral projects between Jordan and Israel, Naito said.

Unlike many Japanese companies, which have shied away from doing business in Israel since difficulties in the peace process erupted, Nissho Iwai remains committed to promoting peace through economic cooperation, said Naito.

"My philosophy is to support the peace process through economic development and the creation of jobs," he said.

"Our target is to be at the vanguard of supporting [regional] economies."

However, Naito said breakthroughs in talks between Israel and the Palestinians would speed the company's local growth.

In terms of local employees, "we are three times larger this year than last, but if the peace process moved faster we could have been 10 times bigger," he said.

Established last year, the company's Tel Aviv office employs six people.

Worldwide Nissho Iwai, which had a turnover of \$89 billion in 1996, has some 37,000 employees.

Last year, Nissho Iwai exported \$50m. in Israeli goods to Japan. The company's 1997 and 2000 targets are \$110m. and \$200m. Most of the exports are in textiles, prepared foods, and high-tech items.

Nissho Iwai also intends to par-

ticipate in the Israeli project to provide Jordan with desalinated water, to work on the gas pipeline between Israel and Egypt, and to push the Jordanian government to create a free-trade zone with Israel.

Such a development would

allow companies to simultaneously benefit from Jordan's cheap labor supply and Israel's free-trade agreements with Europe and the US.

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... ..	403.0	2.0
... ..	1169.0	0.0
... ..	1749.0	1.0
... ..	139.0	5.1
... ..	197.5	2.9
... ..	180.0	0.6
... ..	98.0	0.0
... ..	279.0	3.0
... ..	248.0	0.9

[illegible]

The Jerusalem Post Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Cabot Corp	27.1875	+1/8
Campbell Soup	51.6875	+1/8
Capital Cts ABC	.81	+1/8
Carolina Pwr LI	34.4375	-1/8
Carpenter-Tech	.47	-1/8
Caterpillar	55.25	-1/8
Centistar Energy	11.3125	+1/8
Centrex Corp	53.8125	+1/8
Central & SW	20.625	+1/8
Ceridian		

Midport	48.6875	-0.0625
Mine Safety App	63.5	-1.25
Minnesota Mine	92.1875	+0.125
Mitchell Energy	28	-0.625
Mobile Corp	77.0625	+1.125
Mobile Telecom	13.0625	-0.625
Molox Inc.	36.25	-0.25
Monarch Machi	9.1875	-0.0625
Monsonia	42.6875	-0.125

Coca Cola Entl.	28.4975	+0.0
Colgate Palmolive	64.75	-0.375
Comcast Com A	23.3125	-0.125

Morgan JPI	114,025	-0.83%
Morningstar Gp	36.5	+3.12%
Morion Ind	30.25	+0.73%
Motorola Inc	76.8125	-0.3125%
Murphy Oil	56.125	+1.125
Niacco Inds	100.125	-3.69%
Nitco Chemical	.40	+0.125
Nisource Corp	12.25	-0.0625
Natl City Corp	61.6375	+0.6875
Natl Seml	38.3125	-0.6875
Natl Serv Ind	44.125	-0.125
Northwest Bank	78.5625	+0.1875

Crown Cork Seal	50.875	-0.082
Curtis Engine	78.1875	+0
Curtis-Wright	74.1875	+1.375

Newark NJ	37.76	-0.67%
New York NY	-3.43%	-0.43%
New England EL	-0.85%	-0.06%
Newer Corp	18.5	-0.06%
NY State EL Gas	-26.5	+0
NY Times A	-49.18%	-1.11%
Newmont Mining	-40.76	-0.5
Ning Mohank	9.26	-0.06%
Norcor Inc	36.375	-0.18%
Norfolk Inc	64.75	-0.5
NI Industries	15.0625	-0.06%
Norfolk Atl	-46	-0.50%
Norfolk	84.1675	-0.87%
Norfolk	61.5875	-0.43%
Norfolk Southern	96.4375	-0.43%
Norfolkstar UI	3.375	-0.06%
Norfolk		

Electric	86.75	-0.1875
Gas	65.8875	-0.1875
Motors	67.0625	+1.2375

Nthn State Pwr	43.375	+0.125
Oberlin	48.375	+0.0625
Northrop	120.125	+0.0625
Novast Corp	.61	+0.125
NSI	3.0625	+0.1875
-		
Occidental Pet	34.75	+0.0625
Ogden Corp	24.3125	+0.0625
OEA	37.125	-0.3125
Ohio Casualty	45.25	-0.625
Ohio Edison	22.4375	+0.125
Ohio Corp	43.6875	-0.25
Orecon Group	69.0625	-0.0625
Oretek Inc		

(WWW)	90.8375	-0.875	
ac Tea	25.875	-0.125	
ral Mine	4.875	+0	

Oracle Systems	39.8125	-0.125
Oryx Energy Co.	56.1875	-0.125
Daiichi Kogyo	26.1875	+0.0625
Outboard Marine	16.9375	+0.00
Overseas Ship	26.125	-0.6875
Owens Corning	41.880	+0.125
		-0.0875
P&H Group		
PNC Financial	48	-0.0625
PPG Industries	85.375	+0.375
Pacer Inc.	51.375	0
Packcorp	51.6875	+0.1875

100	+1.125	
52.25	+0.9375	UAL Co
25.5	+0.125	USG Co
88		

Pac Enterprises	33.6	+0
Pac Gas & Elect	34.125	+0.375
Pac Telecom		
Pell Corp	22.375	-0.0625
Pink Eleaton		
Perrier Drilling	14.25	+0.1875
Perrier Hardware	43.5625	-0.375
PharmacyJCI		
Pharmco Per Lr	.81	+0.0625
Pharmco	22.3125	+0.0625
People's Energy	77.5625	+0.375
Peppaco	38.625	+0.375
Perkin Elmer	38.4375	+0.3125

Polar	59,052	+0.125
Pharmacia & Up	55,562	+0.186
Phelps Dodge	79,312	-0.172
Phillips 66	33,978	+0.126
Phillips Morris	44,818	+0.053
Phillips Petroleum	76,128	-0.509
Phillips Pet	49,626	+1.122
Phisher H Ind	87,125	+0.876
Philly Steels	79,35	-
Policy Mgt Ind	89,562	-0.212
Polycorn	5,032	-0.125
Potlatch Corp	77,022	-1.167
Potomac of Pw	22,937	-0.065
Potlatch & Gamble	133,612	+0.167
Pub Serv Enrgy	34,337	-

Quaker Oats	48.125	-0.4375
Quaker	50.6125	-0.8875
Quaker Corp	34.125	+0
RJRT Habano	38.25	+0.9375
Reliance Purina	82.75	+0.25
Risk Organ ADR	11.375	+0.125
Raychem Corp	34.25	-0.1875
Raychem	38.875	+0.6125
Reebok Int'l	45.5	+1.5
Reynolds Brast A		

[illegible]

Alco Corp	48.125	+0
Alstey-Klein	31	+0.125
Patco Inc	21.875	+0.75
Alomex Inc	70.9375	-0.1875
Alon Diego Gas	63.575	-0.25
Alon Lee Corp	24.50	+0
Alon Plough	41.875	+0.25
Alonburg	49.9375	-0.4375
Alon Atlanta	77.0625	+0.625
Alon	22.8125	+0.1875
Alon	39.875	+0
Alon Tech	35.25	+0.25
Alon	35.125	-0.31
Alon		

Monette Elec	13,433.0	+0.125
Mon Corp I	13,433.0	+0.0625
Mon Master	32,126	+0.25
Mon Medical	28,926	+0.125
Mon Trans	52,311.0	+0.375
Mon Wm	42,126	+0.0625
Mon Wm Int	28,912.5	+0.3125
Mon Wm	5,592.5	+0.0625
Mon Wm	38,35	+0.0625
Mon Wm	28,187.5	+0.4375
Mon Corp	28,825	+0
Mon Int	75,25	+1.1875
Mon Int	43,625	+0.25
Mon On Tools	43,625	+0.0625
Mon On Tools	50,815	+1.875
Mon Prod	32,875	+0.275
Mon Corp ADP	54,675	+0.25

Donner	49.25	+0.5625
ers Co	22.0625	+0.1875
Eng Tel	40.25	+0.3125
w Airlines	30.9375	+0.5625
ween Bell	57	-1.0625
Jacks	49.5	+0
Corp	46.875	-0.1875
nd Prods	59.75	+0.625
y Works	43.575	-0.125
Container	18	+0.3125
e Technical	48.375	+0.125
Corp	55.125	-0.125
erical	1	-0.6875
	0	0

nd	91	-0.126
nyshire	43.1875	-0.8976
io	58.76	-0.0825
nc	39.825	+1
orp	24.375	-0.1875
nc	34.5075	+0
orp	40	+0
nc	29.75	-0.1875
nc	55.875	+0.5
nc	11.875	-0.125
Comp		
mp	55.75	-0.125
Comp	18.875	-0.125

de Mex	47.8125	-0.125
land	83.375	-0.5
	49.8125	-0.5
	58.3125	-0.4375
	18.0625	+0.0625
	120.125	+0.25
rnica	124.375	-0.125
lee	35.25	+0.0625
	65.0625	+0.875
	84.8125	+1.4375
Bots	53.675	-1.0625

	51.825	+3.5825
W	62.5	+0.4375
	62.825	+0.375
	38.25	-0.125
	38.1875	-0.3125
	34.5625	-0.4375
Am	10.75	-0.5
	35.8875	-0.125
	100.188	-0.0825
W	.57	+0.375
W	85.125	+0.5625
W	48.8375	-0.0825
W	41.8875	-0.1875

7.9875	-0.4375
92.25	+0.825
3.25	-0.1575
76.5875	+0.8125
43.9375	+0.6875
31.5625	-0.0625
33.75	+0.1875

Europe

Yen records biggest gain in a month

CURRENCIES

Summers' comments suggest the US remains troubled by Japan's rising trade surplus. The deputy

Gold falls on expectations of central banks' sale


Precious metals

Oil

Coffee

Coffee futures fell as much as 3.4% in London after the

COMMODITIES



Gold \$321.75 ▼ 0.20
Crude Oil \$18.40 ▼ 0.07
CRB 242.19 ▲ 0.13

Others

Sugar prices fell in London amid expectations of a higher European Union crop. European Union sugar beet production this year is expected to be the highest in four years because of favorable growing conditions, sugar traders said. The sugar crop, to be harvested in October, will exceed the estimated production of 16.55 million tons, they said. White sugar for October delivery on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange fell \$2.40

to \$321.50 a metric ton.

Zinc fell as analysts warned that a fall in stockpiles was more likely to be market manipulation than genuine demand from consumers. They said it is probably part of a struggle between Chinese smelters, who face large potential losses after selling zinc they didn't own earlier this year before prices surged by more than 60 percent, and Western traders and funds.

China has accused the funds of driving the zinc price up to artificially high levels by cornering supplies so that they can profit from the smelters' problems.

The zinc stockpile dropped 13,150 metric tons, or 2.9%, on Monday to 374,050 tons, its lowest since October 8, 1992, the London Metals Exchange said in yesterday's report. Three-month zinc on the LME fell \$11, to \$1,676 a metric ton. (Bloomberg)

US bonds fall after dollar declines

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	4.875	5.250
pound sterling (£100,000)	5.250	5.375	5.750
german mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.375
swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.000	0.125	0.500
(\leq 0.0 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (9.9.97)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS					Rep.
	TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES			
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell		
Currency basket	3.7239	3.7340	—	—	3.7542	
U.S. dollar	3.4844	3.5407	3.42	3.59	3.5140	
German mark	1.9252	1.9583	1.89	1.99	1.8932	
Pound sterling	5.5843	5.6236	5.43	5.71	5.5746	
French franc	0.5724	0.5817	0.56	0.59	0.5769	
Japanese yen (100)	2.9271	2.9744	2.87	3.02	2.9810	
Dutch florin	1.7099	1.7395	1.67	1.77	1.7184	
Swiss franc	2.3491	2.4387	2.30	2.42	2.3646	
Swedish krona	0.4476	0.4549	0.43	0.47	0.4501	
Norwegian krona	0.4684	0.4760	0.46	0.48	0.4708	
Danish krona	0.5055	0.5137	0.49	0.53	0.5084	
Finnish mark	0.6424	0.6528	0.63	0.67	0.6461	
Canadian dollar	2.5198	2.5595	2.47	2.60	2.5400	
Australian dollar	2.5452	2.5863	2.50	2.63	2.5643	
S. African rand	0.7409	0.7529	0.87	0.76	0.7466	
Belgian franc (10)	0.9322	0.9473	0.91	0.97	0.9371	
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7362	2.7804	2.66	2.82	2.7503	
Italian lira (1000)	1.9728	2.0047	1.93	2.04	1.9875	
Jordanian dinar	4.9078	4.9968	4.84	5.17	5.0075	
Egyptian pound	0.9900	1.0000	0.99	1.06	1.0782	
ECU	3.7783	3.8333	—	—	3.7990	
Irish punt	5.2016	5.2655	5.11	5.36	5.2383	
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2817	2.3186	2.24	2.36	2.2967	

*These rates vary according to bank. *Bank of China

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1108.
Tel Aviv: Kupat Holim Chaili, 7-9
Amsterdam, 523-2383; Superpharm
Van Diczangol, 50 Diczangol, 621-0975.
Tbilisi 1, Jambury, Phasma Dai,
Kobuletskiy, 128, 6th Gdina, 542-23-
0000; Superpharm Ramat Aviv,
40, Einsteini, 541-3730; London
Ministore Superpharm, 4 Shaul
Hamid, 596-0115.
Ramat Gan: Sava, Shor-
Tshechik, 12 Derech Hashalom, Kir-
yat Sava, 742-5860.
Netanya: Genter Pharm, 1 King
David, 846-8371.
Haifa: Sava, 53 Horia, 525-2573.
Kiryat Arca: Kupat Holim, Chaili,
Zevulun, 12 Derech Ahal, Kiryat
Bialik, 878-7818.
Tel Aviv: Kupat Holim, 6-9
Amsterdam, 523-2383; Superpharm
Van Diczangol, 50 Diczangol, 621-0975.


Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472,

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BONDS



US 30-year T-bill yield
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posted its biggest one-day drop against the yen since August 8. The slide was triggered by a *Financial Times* article which quoted Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers as expressing concern that Japan would attempt to export its way to recovery. The

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remarks prompted speculation that the US will refuse to support a

A falling dollar erodes the returns foreign investors receive on Treasury securities when the proceeds are converted into their own currency. "The dollar's down quite a bit - that could put some pressure on the market," said William Lloyd, bond strategist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities Inc.

The Labor Department yesterday said productivity - a measure of time and effort needed to produce goods and services - rose at a 2.7% annual rate in the second quarter, the largest increase since the fourth quarter of 1993. Analysts were expecting produc-

— WHERE TO GO

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tivity to climb by a revised 2.1%. Productivity gains have been a recurrent theme in recent speeches by Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, who said as recently as Friday that productivity is understated by Labor Department figures.

One of the main reasons inflation slowed — to an annual rate of just 1.5 percent in the first seven months of the year — is the ability of companies to boost productivity, Greenspan suggested. Slow inflation is good news for bond investors, because it means the securities will hold more of their value over time. It also suggests the central bank may not have to raise interest rates again to keep the economy from overheating. (Floomberg).

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-AOR

THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Customers at the Shikun Bavi branch of Four Square Co-Op found that standing in the check-out line was less tedious thanks to the new check-out boy, Comedian Tuvia Tsafir (above), is a frequent customer in the store and the star entertainer for the chain's upcoming 60th anniversary festivities, which were originally slated for this week at the Ramat Gan stadium. To prepare for his gig, Tsafir thought that he ought to find out what goes on in the store from the employees' perspective. The employees themselves were supposed to have a night off on Sunday so that all of them could enjoy the anniversary gala, in the company of industry and trade. Minister Nathan Sharansky, but tragic events in Jerusalem and Lebanon put the celebrations on hold till September 14.

Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine Sergei Tjeblo, who is responsible for his country's economic reforms, is scheduled to visit the international Plasto-lapack exhibition which opens next week at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds.

ScanVec's board of directors has appointed Shmuel Rothman as president and CEO of ScanVec Co., the parent company, and Yoav Harel as president of ScanVec Inc. (USA). Rothman, who will be responsible for ScanVec's worldwide operations, was previously employed at ELTA Electronic Industries Inc., a subsidiary of Israel Aircraft Industries, where he worked for nine years in senior management positions. Most recently he held the position of director of ELTA's Communications Systems Division and was a member of the managing board. Rothman, a graduate of the Haifa Technion, holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in electrical

By NEIL COHEN

Small, or at least smaller, is beautiful, according to Fidelity Investments, the world's largest fund manager. Its decision to close the Magellan Fund - its flagship mutual fund with assets of over \$60 billion - to new investment at the end of this month has naturally attracted a great deal of attention.

This despite earlier decisions by both Putnam Investments and the Vanguard group - the two companies that recorded greater net mutual-fund sales than Fidelity last year - to close popular funds to new investors, and decisions by some leading hedge-fund managers to return money to investors.

Fidelity's move is part of a war between the leading fund groups for hegemony in an industry torn between a desire for optimum investment performance and the wish to maximize assets under management and hence fee income and profits. Some of the hedge-fund managers simply were tired of making money, deciding that there were other things in life. Others, though, clearly indicated that they were victims of their own success. Superior returns had attracted ever increasing inflows of money. At a certain point, these managers felt they were simply unable to effectively manage the funds they had attracted, somewhere in the region of a couple of billion dollars. They had made their money by placing a small number of big bets on a few good ideas each year. They

usually got more right than wrong, hence the superior returns.

That was fine with \$500 million under management, even a billion. But while the funds grew, the number of ideas did not. If anything, there was more and more money chasing the same number of opportunities. Inevitably returns fell.

Historically, lots of money in the mutual-fund industry used to be fairly immobile. But with the increased sophistication of performance monitoring and far greater accessibility of this information, even the most modest of retail investors are able to - and indeed do - ruthlessly switch between worse and better performing funds.

Magellan, for example, had been missing out because of this phenomenon. Matt Beaudry of the Boston-based Financial Research Corporation was quoted in the *Financial Times* as saying that about 85 percent of all new investments go into funds with either five- or four-star ratings from Morningstar, the most influential mutual fund research organization. Performance measurements - particularly Morningstar's - are now so widely published that they flow into the remainder of the industry are negligible, as Magellan discovered.

Another phenomenon that has hurt some of the bigger funds and the groups that manage them has been the growth of "fund super-programs." Using computer programs accessible by telephone or the Internet, investors can switch between thousands of different

funds, buying or selling, at no cost and at any time.

Charles Schwab, the San Francisco-based discount broker, pioneered the idea, which numerous banks and funds, including Fidelity, have followed.

Schwab's supermarket has grown at a rate reminiscent of Magellan's early years: It had \$1.8b. in assets

when it was launched in 1992. Now it has \$50b. Some analysts believe Fidelity's decision to close Magellan was part of an attempt to keep up with the times - to emphasize choice and flexibility through its own supermarket, rather than encourage investors to commit themselves to one big fund manager.

The supermarket phenomenon has its critics, notably Jack Bogle, founder of Vanguard. He claims supermarkets encourage a "casino economy," because they make it too easy for investors to speculate. Vanguard has a supermarket of its own, but it requires investors to pay a transaction fee every time they switch funds, to encourage long-term investment.

Henry Kaufman, long-time chief economist of Salomon Brothers, who now runs his own firm, has suggested that making selling so quick and easy could permit a "vicious cycle" when the next bear

market starts, with mutual-fund investors redeeming their investment en masse, sucking money out of the market just when it needs it.

Magellan began its march to greatness in 1977 when the legendary Peter Lynch took over the management of the fund. Its assets then totaled \$18m. and even as the fund grew there were few constraints on Lynch's outstanding stockpicking skills. But most commentators agree that a juggernaut like Magellan could not go on delivering outperformance regardless of its size.

LAST WEEK, one of the country's leading accountants called me and asked me how he should invest some \$30,000 to provide most effectively for his (currently quite small) grandchildren's education. Until he read my column of two weeks ago, he had been planning to put half the money into mutual funds and half into provident funds. I groaned. Much of the public, even the informed public, still sees provident funds as attractive vehicles for long-term savings.

I have more than once written about the herd-like investment mentality of the provident funds and the likelihood that this arises from the fact that most provident-fund managers are little more than glorified clerks with very little skill or experience in managing assets. But add on top of this the colossal size of the three funds (Otzma, Gadiah and Tamar) that dominate the provident-fund sector relative to the public's financial assets, and in particular to the

free-floating stock available on the TASE, and it becomes clear that comparing them to juggernauts is an extreme understatement.

Despite their relatively small size compared to Magellan, they are much larger when looked at in the perspective of the overall economies and markets in which they operate, and their ability to achieve superior returns, perhaps even decent ones, must be severely limited.

Switching out of provident funds has become easier over the last few years, but you might just as well say that it's easier to climb Everest than the Matterhorn. There are only certain times in the month in which you can do so, and it takes time to process. The bank clerks who process the forms usually try to discourage savers from leaving their funds. The fear that increased ability to switch between funds might have a destabilizing effect in a market downturn is a legitimate concern, but the current near monolithic structure of the savings market serves savers very poorly.

The reason I set up my portfolio was that I have a very low opinion of the quality of equity-market money management in this country. I wanted to see how a disciplined amateur would do against the market and against the so-called professionals. So far so good, but the 15 or so months we have been going is much too short a yardstick. More than that, I wanted to offer people some kind of alternative - namely the ability, with a little guidance, to manage some of their own savings.

Thai package highlights IMF's Asia role

By CHRISTOPHER PIZZEY

SINGAPORE - The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) leading role in arranging the recent \$17 billion bail-out package for Thailand has highlighted its hitherto low profile presence in Asia, analysts say.

"To be frank, the IMF hasn't really had to do too much in Asia because everything has looked hunky-dory throughout most of the region," commented the chief economist at a European investment house in Singapore.

However, the sudden collapse of international investor confidence in Thailand in July meant the IMF had to rush to put together a rescue package.

"The IMF faced some criticism in that it allowed the Thai problem to

(a) occur and (b) blow out of proportion, but they can't do anything unless they're asked to. The criticism is unfair," said the economist, who asked not to be identified.

He said the IMF had been advising Thailand to aim for an easier baht-dollar exchange rate and to strengthen its shaky financial sector for some time prior to the currency crisis.

"The Thai ignored them, that's not the IMF's fault," he said. Under the bail-out plan, the IMF will loan Thailand a total of \$3.9b. and has set performance targets.

"Every quarter there will be an IMF team reviewing the situation, discussing policies and checking performance criteria," Hubert Neiss, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, said in

Singapore recently.

Neiss, the architect of the bail-out plan, added: "If the performance criteria are not met... right away, the next installment of IMF credit is suspended."

Analysts say the IMF criteria are almost certain to include the dismantling of Thailand's present two-tier currency trading system and will lead to a sharp increase in unemployment. "Short-term pain, long-term gain. Corny, but true in this case," the economist said.

Most Thais seem to agree with economists and analysts who say Thailand had to swallow its pride in return for the IMF assistance.

"This is not a question of pride, but rather an issue of economic survival. Although most Thais do not get involved in national poli-

cies, we are aware of its necessity," a young marketing executive at an international company in Bangkok told Reuters.

The economist said the IMF could be rightly proud of its achievements in Asia, especially with the Philippines.

"The Philippines was a basket-case when the IMF first got involved - we're talking over 30 years ago - and now the IMF is on the verge of pulling out, and the Philippines has improved dramatically," he said.

The Philippines hopes to end 34 years of International Monetary Fund supervision at the end of this year with the expected passage into law of a crucial tax-reform bill later this month.

It has had 22 programs with the

IMF. The last one, the Extended Fund Facility, had set out a series of reforms and economic targets to wean the country away from dependence on foreign loan assistance.

The reforms included the deregulation of the oil industry, the opening of the banking sector to foreign banks and the restructuring of taxes.

The Philippines recently drew about \$652m. under the existing IMF loan facility and another \$435m. from the IMF to beef up its currency reserves following the relentless attack on the peso caused by Thailand's financial woes.

Last week, after the Senate passed the bill on taxes, President Fidel Ramos said: "Hopefully, we get out of the IMF after so many years at the time that Thailand is entering again into the IMF..." (Reuters)

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	yield 1997 (%)	yield 1996 (%)	yield 1995 (%)	yield 1994 (%)	yield 1993 (%)	yield 1992 (%)	yield 1991 (%)	yield 1990 (%)	yield 1989 (%)	yield 1988 (%)	yield 1987 (%)	yield 1986 (%)	yield 1985 (%)	yield 1984 (%)	yield 1983 (%)	yield 1982 (%)	yield 1981 (%)	yield 1980 (%)	yield 1979 (%)	yield 1978 (%)	yield 1977 (%)	yield 1976 (%)	yield 1975 (%)	yield 1974 (%)	yield 1973 (%)	yield 1972 (%)	yield 1971 (%)	yield 1970 (%)	yield 1969 (%)	yield 1968 (%)	yield 1967 (%)	yield 1966 (%)	yield 1965 (%)	yield 1964 (%)	yield 1963 (%)	yield 1962 (%)	yield 1961 (%)	yield 1960 (%)	yield 1959 (%)	yield 1958 (%)	yield 1957 (%)	yield 1956 (%)	yield 1955 (%)	yield 1954 (%)	yield 1953 (%)	yield 1952 (%)	yield 1951 (%)	yield 1950 (%)	yield 1949 (%)	yield 1948 (%)	yield 1947 (%)	yield 1946 (%)	yield 1945 (%)	yield 1944 (%)	yield 1943 (%)	yield 1942 (%)	yield 1941 (%)	yield 1940 (%)	yield 1939 (%)	yield 1938 (%)	yield 1937 (%)	yield 1936 (%)	yield 1935 (%)	yield 1934 (%)	yield 1933 (%)	yield 1932 (%)	yield 1931 (%)	yield 1930 (%)	yield 1929 (%)	yield 1928 (%)	yield 1927 (%)	yield 1926 (%)	yield 1925 (%)	yield 1924 (%)	yield 1923 (%)	yield 1922 (%)	yield 1921 (%)	yield 1920 (%)	yield 1919 (%)	yield 1918 (%)	yield 1917 (%)	yield 1916 (%)	yield 1915 (%)	yield 1914 (%)	yield 1913 (%)	yield 1912 (%)	yield 1911 (%)	yield 1910 (%)	yield 1909 (%)	yield 1908 (%)	yield 1907 (%)	yield 1906 (%)	yield 1905 (%)	yield 1904 (%)	yield 1903 (%)	yield 1902 (%)	yield 1901 (%)	yield 1900 (%)	yield 1899 (%)	yield 1898 (%)	yield 1897 (%)	yield 1896 (%)	yield 1895 (%)	yield 1894 (%)	yield 1893 (%)	yield 1892 (%)	yield 1891 (%)	yield 1890 (%)	yield 1889 (%)	yield 1888 (%)	yield 1887 (%)	yield 1886 (%)	yield 1885 (%)	yield 1884 (%)	yield 1883 (%)	yield 1882 (%)	yield 1881 (%)	yield 1880 (%)	yield 1879 (%)	yield 1878 (%)	yield 1877 (%)	yield 1876 (%)	yield 1875 (%)	yield 1874 (%)	yield 1873 (%)	yield 1872 (%)	yield 1871 (%)	yield 1870 (%)	yield 1869 (%)	yield 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New look characterizes '97 Grand Slam season

NEW YORK (Reuters) - It was a brand new US Open this year at Flushing Meadows, an Open with a new vitality, a new stadium, new champions and a new rivalry bringing down the curtain on the 1997 Grand Slam season.

Arthur Ashe Stadium, the jewel at the heart of a \$252 million makeover of the Grand Slam venue the players had loved to hate, was fittingly christened. Its first singles championship featured an unseeded outsider who was the first black American player to fight for the US title in 39 years.

Venus Williams was a loser against women's No. 1 Martina Hingis on Sunday but tennis was a winner.

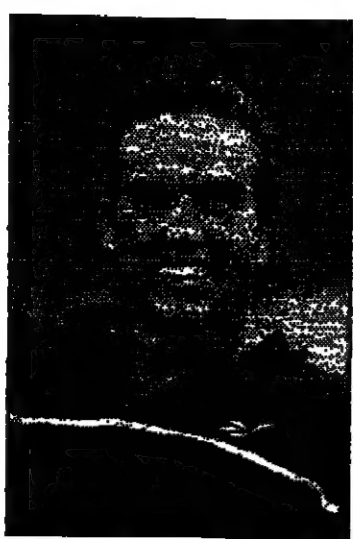
The 17-year-old with the beaded braids, who had never advanced past the quarterfinals in 18 pro tournaments, justified years of hype and gave the game a taste of the lift Tiger Woods has given golf.

She also might have provided the 16-year-old Hingis, a spectacular 62-2 this season, with a worthy long term rival.

Venus ascending was a star gazer's delight in a frenetic fortnight that saw other fresh faces capture the spotlight.

Australian Patrick Rafter rose from his 13th seedling all the way to the men's title, taken in a pulsating serve-and-volley duel against unseeded Briton Greg Rusedski.

Rafter, with his dark good looks and dashing personality, became a big favorite of the female spectators during his charge to Grand



Patrick Rafter (Reuters)

Slam glory that included a semi-final upset of second seed Michael Chang that put him in his first major final.

But Rafter, 24, never lost his perspective, even after adding his name to Australia's Grand Slam champions list that includes the likes of Laver, Newcombe and Rosewall.

"I'll still be the same sack of crap I am," Rafter predicted about life after winning the Open.

Rusedski made it a Grand Slam sweep into the finals for the unseeded in this year's majors, following the lead of Carlos Moya of Spain (Australia Open), Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten (French Open winner) and Cedric Pioline (Wimbledon).

Rusedski, after setting a record

for fastest serve in his four-set loss to Rafter, said the depth in men's tennis had thrown the major championships wide open.

"Anybody think Kuerten was going to win the French Open this year, ranked 66 in the world?" asked Rusedski, ranked 20th before the Open and 11th after. Rafter moved from 14 all the way to No. 3. "I think one through 20, any one of those 20 players can win on any occasion."

Proof of that came in the fourth round when 15th seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic sent two-time defender Pete Sampras, the world No. 1, packing.

The figure missed most by many was three-time Wimbledon and former US and Australian Open champion Boris Becker.

The charismatic Becker, 29, was expected to stage a farewell to Grand Slam tennis with his appearance here but instead pulled out just before the tournament after the death of his adviser and friend Axel Meyer-Woelden.

On the women's side, Hingis bristled at a suggestion that her achievement in becoming just the sixth woman - and youngest - to win at least three Grand Slam events in a season was diminished by the absence of the injured Steffi Graf.

"It's not my mistake she's not playing here," Hingis said after adding her first US Open title to Australian and Wimbledon crowns won this season. Only a defeat to Iva Majoli in the French Open blocked Hingis from a Grand Slam sweep.



NEW RIVALRY - US Open champion Martina Hingis, 16, and runnerup Venus Williams, 17. (Reuters)

Ballroom dancing recognized by IOC

LONDON (AP) - Ballroom dancing, rugby and surfing have cleared another hurdle in their bid to become Olympic sports.

But they'll have to compete with two dozen other sports seeking inclusion in the games.

The federations representing the three sports have received formal recognition from the International Olympic Committee, IOC sports director Gilbert Felli said yesterday.

The recognition was upgraded to permanent status during the IOC session last weekend in Lausanne, Switzerland, Felli said.

Felli stressed the recognition does not guarantee the sports will be included on the Olympic program. Dancing, rugby and surfing join a list of two dozen other sports that have already received IOC recognition.

Other recognized sports include acrobatics, mountain climbing, billiards, golf, karate, korfbal, netball, orienteering, roller skating, basque pelota, polo, bowling, racquetball, water skiing and squash.

The idea of ballroom dancing in the Olympics has been sneered at by some purists. But it has a large following and the IOC considers it a legitimate sport, comparable to ice dancing in the winter games.

"We know that it involves a lot of physical activity," Felli said.

How Israel fared

President's Cup in Basketball

Final round, second round results:

Amichai, Ramat Hashikma, defeated Hapoel Tel Aviv, 67-57, 62-52.

Yotam, Ramat Hashikma, defeated Hapoel Tel Aviv, 63-53.

Under-21 soccer side's hopes shaken

By ORI LEWIS

The Israel under-21 soccer side's hopes of reaching the quarter-final stage of the European championships took a serious knock yesterday when Russia beat Bulgaria 2-1 to close the gap on group leaders Israel to just one point.

The Israelis, who were unbeaten in qualifying Group 5 until their 3-1 loss to Bulgaria in Sofia last month, looked to be coasting to the next stage of the competition, and were hoping for a draw between last night's two protagonists in order to keep their hopes alive.

The Israelis are lame ducks, as they have completed their fixture program, while Russia and Bulgaria have two more matches to play. After last night's result, Russia, who along with Israel are the only side who can qualify from the group, trail Israel by one point. There is one more match remaining between the same two sides, to be played in Moscow on

October 10.

Only the group winners can qualify.

Some 15,000 spectators turned out for last night's match in Sofia, the Bulgarians went ahead in the seventh minute through Georgi Ivanov, but second-half strikes from Andrei Solomatin (53) and Aleksei Baharev (85) saw the visitors grab all three points.

Betar fined

In other international soccer news concerning Israel yesterday, Betar Jerusalem were fined 2,500 Swiss francs by UEFA because racist chants were hurled by some of their supporters during the match with Sporting Lisbon at Teddy Stadium last month.

European under-21 Championships

	Qualifying Group 5	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	8	5	2	1	7	9	17	17
Russia	7	5	1	1	24	5	16	
Bulgaria	7	4	0	3	14	9	12	
Cyprus	7	2	1	4	11	15	7	
Luxembourg	7	0	0	7	3	31	0	

Richie Ashburn at 70

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Former Philadelphia Phillies center fielder and Hall-of-Famer Richie Ashburn died yesterday of an apparent heart attack. He was 70.

Ashburn broadcasted the Phillies' game against the New York Mets Monday night and died in his room at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York.

Ashburn, a leading catalyst for the Phillies' 1950, pennant-winning "Whiz Kids" finished his career with the Mets in their first season, 1962, and joined the Phillies as a broadcaster the following season.

He won the batting title in 1955 with a .338 average and again in 1958, with a .350 mark. Ashburn also finished second three times.

One of the great leadoff hitters of all-time, Ashburn led the National League in walks and runs scored four times, and hits and triples three times. A defensive wizard, Ashburn tied a major-league record by leading National League outfielders in putouts nine times. The six-time All-Star also hit over .300 nine times in his 15-year career.

The native of Tilden, Nebraska, began his career with the Phillies in 1948, winning Rookie of the Year with a .333 average, and played there until a trade to the Chicago Cubs after the 1959 season. After two years with the Cubs, he went to the expansion Mets.

In 2,189 games, he had 2,574 hits and a .308 batting average, earning election into the Hall-of-Fame in 1995.

Maple Leaf Gardens employee pleads guilty to sex assaults

TORONTO (AP) - A former equipment manager at Maple Leaf Gardens pleaded guilty Monday to sexually assaulting boys whom he enticed with hockey tickets and other favors.

Gordon Stuckless, 47, faced 22 indecent assault charges and two counts of sexual assault. He is to be sentenced next month.

In court, Stuckless admitted to luring boys to Maple Leaf Gardens by promising free admission to Maple Leafs games, wrestling matches and concerts. He said he abused 24 boys

between the ages of 11 and 15 from 1969 to 1988.

Other assaults took place in the offices and locker room of a public school where he was an assistant gym teacher.

The scandal followed another sex abuse scandal in Canada last year. Graham James, a successful hockey coach in the country's top junior league, was sentenced to prison after admitting he sexually abused some of his players over a period of years, including former Boston Bruin forward Sheldon Kennedy.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

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NEWS

of the muse

Jubilee tour for Kibbutz Dance Company

The Kibbutz Dance Company will go to Brazil, Argentina, and Chile later this month on the first leg of an Israel Jubilee world tour. KDC will perform artistic director Rami Be'er's *Aide Memoire* within the framework of dance and theater festivals. The tour begins on September 22. The company will also go to France, the US and Canada.

Helen Kaye

World premiere at the Haifa Film Festival

Nana, a documentary directed by Suheir Ismail (Palestinian), Ruti Gadish (Israel), Alison King (UK) and Fabienne Bouville (France) will have its world premiere at the 1997 Haifa Film Festival (October 16-21). It is an interweaving of the directors' relationships with their grandmothers into a tapestry of stories told within changing historical and cultural contexts and contrasts. It is sponsored by the European Union's Med Media project which seeks to augment Middle East film cooperation.

The festival will show more than 100 films from around the world in 160 screenings. Prizes will total NIS 150,000.

Helen Kaye

CNN's Larry King has impromptu wedding

Popular TV talk-show host Larry King was married in a surprise sunrise ceremony in a California hospital after his star-studded formal wedding was canceled due to health problems, said close friend millionaire Norm Pattiz.

King, 63, married fiancée Shawn Southwick, 37, at the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center after learning he would need a minor heart operation. A spokeswoman for CNN said doctors expected King to make a full recovery.

It was his seventh wedding, according to Pattiz, whose Beverly Hills mansion was to have been the venue for the wedding. The twice-divorced bride is the co-inventor with Priscilla Presley (Elvis Presley's ex-wife) of Luxurious Hair, clip-on hair extensions. Among the people told that the formal ceremony was off were Time Warner vice-chairman Ted Turner, who was to have been best man, and Academy Award-winning actor Al Pacino, who was to have read poetry.

Southwick and King met through a date organized by King's daughter just months after King vowed never to get married again. His proclivity for getting married has become the talk of talk shows, with jokes about his being married so often that he is rice-scarred.

(Reuters)

Grammy Awards remain in NYC in 1998

The Grammy Awards will be held in New York City in 1998 for the second straight year - a victory for the Big Apple over Los Angeles in the annual rivalry to host the show.

The more intimate Radio City Music Hall, capacity 6,000, will be the site for the February 25 awards. This year's awards were presented at 20,000-seat Madison Square Garden.

Since 1978, the show has been held at LA's 6,300-seat Shrine Auditorium or in New York.

"We love New York," said Barry Gibb of the Bee Gees, who attended the ceremony with brothers Robin and Maurice.

A host has not yet been selected for the 1998 show, which will be broadcast by CBS.

(AP)

Art films pervade Venice Film Festival

A Japanese film of life, death and violence won the coveted Golden Lion award for best picture at the recent Venice film festival. New Zealand-born director Jane Campion, who chaired the jury, announced the choice of *Hana-Bi*, by Takeshi Kitano.

The Japanese word *hanabi* means "fireworks," but Kitano used a hyphen to symbolize the film's themes: *hana* which means "flower," as the symbol of life, and *bi*, which means "gunfire," representing death.

"I did not expect this film to do so well in the West," said Kitano. "The film is about the traditional Japanese spirit, which is dying out." *Hana-Bi*, beautifully shot, with very little dialogue, tells the story of a detective, Nishi, played by Kitano himself. "My film has been regarded as a violent film. But rather than trying to depict violence in a strong and direct way, I tried to depict it in an abstract, indirect way," said Kitano. Some of the inspiration for the film came after Kitano narrowly escaped death in a car crash a few years ago.

In other categories, the jury awarded the best-actor prize to Wesley Snipes in *One Night Stand*, the latest film by *Leaving Las Vegas* director Mike Figgis.

Best actress went to Robin Tunney in the independent US movie *Niagara*, by Bob Gosse.

A special award was given to Italian film *Ovosodo* ("Hard-boiled Egg") by upturning Italian director Paolo Virzì, for its "strength, profundity and humor."

This year's Venice film festival, in which 18 films competed, shunned big studio releases in favor of arty, independent movies. Festival director Felice Laudadio said he wanted to focus on the films, not the "star system."

(Reuters)

Meet MTV's older sister, VH-1

By SHAI TSUR

Probably no phrase sums up the influence of American popular culture on local society better than "the MTV generation." Whether used as a pejorative when complaining about the supposed decline of morals or as a sign that we have finally joined the rest of the world, MTV is a powerful expression of our times.

Among the satellite offerings available on local cable - CNN, Star and the other non-Hebrew-speaking channels - MTV comes in second in popularity only to the Russian stations.

According to surveys funded by the regional cable systems, however, the appeal of MTV seems limited to viewers in their mid-20s and younger. The channel's heavy mix of rap, techno, and heavy metal, along with its frenetic style and non-music programming, appears to alienate older music fans who don't know their Ice Cube from their Ice T.

Working on this theory, the cable systems have decided to introduce VH-1, MTV's sister station. Geared toward older audiences, it will debut in Israel on September 15.

"We believe that music is an essential part of any cable package," explained Yossi Duer, general manager of the Tevel cable system, at a recent press conference. Duer, who helped spearhead VH-1's arrival here, said he believes the channel will provide a perfect complement to music fans "for whom MTV has become too young." The new station will replace the South Asia-oriented Channel V, which is MTV's only local competitor.

Viacom, MTV's parent company, launched VH-1 in the US in the early 1980s to provide an outlet for music videos by artists who appealed to a viewing audience outside of MTV's 16-to-25-year-old demographic group. Along with showing contemporary videos, VH-1 developed into a mainstay for music clips from the 1960s and 1970s, thus feeding the Baby Boomer nostalgia craze and growing strong as a result.

The channel debuted in the UK in September 1994 and has spread throughout Europe. Frances Naylor, VH-1's executive producer, explained that the channel bases its music programming on a group of "core" artists such as Phil Collins, Sting, Whitney Houston, and Celine Dion, whose softer sounds appeal to more mature viewers. However, she said, the main difference between the music programming on the two channels is not so much what one will see on VH-1 but what



Soft-core appeal: VH-1 bases its programming on music artists such as Phil Collins (left) and Sting, whose sounds appeal to more mature viewers.



one won't see. "You won't see rap videos," she said, "you won't see techno, you won't see house."

While Naylor said the programmers consider this a "fairly strict policy," they are likely to make exceptions, especially later at night, for more balladistic rap groups such as Coolio and younger artists like Kula Shaker, whose '60s-influenced sound may appeal to VH-1 viewers.

The European VH-1 continues the tradition of presenting music clips from the '60s, '70s, and '80s, which have all but disappeared from MTV.

This, Naylor said, has presented extra work for VH-1's production team. "The music video was really developed in the mid-'80s." To find earlier clips, she explained, the production crew has scoured television archives looking at old music programs to find classic performances. "We find that the music selection is less threatening than the one on MTV," she said.

The other main difference between the two stations comes in non-music programming. Along with music videos, MTV fills out its schedule with news specials, game shows, and programs such as "The Real World." Naylor said that VH-1 will concentrate exclusively on music videos and music-related interview shows, rounding out its programming with live concerts and shows dedicated to musical genres such as soul and country.

One VH-1 program which has proven to be a hit in the US and UK is "Pop Up Video." The show presents music clips laced with "fact balloons" - captions featuring bits of trivia about the artist, the video, and the song. These balloons generally exhibit a tongue-in-cheek sensibility. Showing Bob Seger's song "Night Moves," for instance, the balloons noted that in the game of chess, a knight moves one step forward and one diagonal. It was

also pointed out that Seger would have had to work more than 35 years at his original job at a car factory to earn the royalties generated by his single.

The decision to replace Channel V arises from limited channel space, which leaves room for only two music channels on the local cable system.

While this may sadden fans of chirpy Bollywood film clips and David Hasselhoff videos, these fans are in the distinct minority of local viewers, says Duer. "Channel V has become increasingly far East, more and more Indian, more and more Pakistani," he said. "Our surveys showed that it is not relevant for the average viewer."

Among the hosts on the new channel, longtime viewers of MTV Europe will note the return of two former MTV veejays, Pip Dunn, who also served as a host of MTV news, now helms a live performance show on VH-1

called *The Bridge*. Paul King, who had a top-10 hit in 1985 with the song "Love and Pride," will host two VH-1 chart shows.

Will all this work? According to Duer, the cable channels certainly seem to think so. While Channel V came as part of the standard satellite channels, the cable franchises agreed to pay a hefty licensing fee for VH-1. Duer is convinced VH-1 will outperform Channel V's 0.2 share of the cable ratings (compared to a 2 share for MTV) and hopes that the new channel will even be a close competitor.

The local music tastes may yet bear out Duer's hopes. While most young Israelis lose their taste for dance and techno after the army, they retain an interest in '60s music. Also, given the long-standing affection of Israeli music audiences for VH-1 mainstays such as Joe Cocker and Simply Red, the new station may become a cultural arbiter yet.

Elli Jaffe: Against all odds

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

On the face of it, Elli Jaffe had everything going against his becoming a musician, let alone a symphony conductor. But today, the 44-year-old Jerusalemite is one of the most respected maestros in Prague.

Jaffe grew up in an Orthodox family in Jerusalem where, as a child, he suffered from polio. He did not recognize the magic of classical music until he was 19. "I heard Zubin Mehta conduct Mahler's second symphony and I realized that was what I wanted to do in life. I began studying scores and worked on developing my memory. Today, I conduct everything by heart."

Jaffe's Czech connection began in 1991 when he led a Czech chamber-music concert in Strasbourg. "It was just after the Gulf War. The event celebrated the connection between the two cities of Ramat Gan and Strasbourg. It was such a successful concert that I was invited to conduct in Prague as well. From then on, I have conducted there at least twice a year."

Jaffe's concerts with the Prague Symphony Orchestra receive unanimous critical and public acclaim in the Czech capital, where he has performed such musical milestones as *Elijah* and Richard Strauss's *Alpine Symphony*. This year he will return to conduct orchestral excerpts from Wagner's *Ring* and Stravinsky's *Perovuchka*.

While Jaffe is a major hit in Prague, he has fewer engagements here, which saddens him. Recently, however, he has received offers from several major musical organizations in Israel, which he is considering.

In between his symphonic engagements, Jaffe makes music with the choir of the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem, where he has served as music director for many years. In November the choir will perform in major European cities, including concerts at Salzburg's renowned Mozarteum.

"This entire tour was organized



Jaffe thanks God for having survived polio and "being able to stand and conduct for hours on end." (Zdenek Chrapek)

by a Gentile impresario. Many non-Jews enjoy listening to liturgical Jewish music. In fact, I see it as a mission to present our music to people all over the world, and in Israel too for that matter."

In fact, Jaffe leads many cantorial concerts in Israel. One of his major aims is not to ghettoize cantorial music but to present it within a larger context of classical music.

Does being religious conflict with a career as an international conductor? Not necessarily, asserts Jaffe. "I never conduct on Shabbat or during our holidays. In Prague they respect me for that. They have even changed concert dates from Friday evening to Saturday night so that I can perform. The only limitation I have imposed on myself is that I do not conduct music with Christian texts. So although the Verdi requiem is one of the works I cherish, I will not conduct it. The only one I will do is the Brahms requiem, which has a different text."

Jaffe, who peppers his speech

End of an era for the Simta Theater

By HELEN KAYE

"What's all this fuss about being a pensioner?" asks Niko Nitai irritably. "On the contrary, I'll go on doing what I've always done except that now I won't have to devote time to administration and promoting this place."

"This place" is the municipal Simta Theater in Old Jaffa, Nitai's fiefdom, his pride and joy since he founded it in 1982. But this dyed-in-the-wool lion of the fringe is a municipal employee. So at 65, willy-nilly, the municipality will, on Friday, retire him from his position as the theater's general manager and artistic director.

Operating his theater on a shoestring, Nitai has put on an astonishing 77 new Israeli plays in the course of his 12-year Simta Original Play Festival. He has also showcased scores of young theater artists who have gone on to make a name for themselves, such as actor/director Itzik Weingarten; playwright Shlomi Moskowitz, now a sought-after screenwriter; and award-winning theater artist Neta Plotsky.

"I know of few people who have run institutional theaters and yet remained creatively on the fringe," says Plotsky, who worked at Simta in the early years and will reprise the hit *Sinim*, *Sinim* ("Chinese, Chinese"), in the Salute to Simta week that starts on September 16.

The Simta has also presented Nitai's own artistic choices - little-known plays or his own adaptations from the European canon, works that a repertory theater usually shies away from but have struck a chord with Simta's faithful following.

On September 20 Nitai will present the 2,300th performance of Albert Camus's *The Fall*, which premiered in 1975. His production of Jean Giraudoux's *Tiger at the Gates* opened this summer.

The Simta has also been home to some of the country's most celebrated actors who return to that venue to retool themselves, such as Israeli Academy Award winner Moshe Ivgy.

"Niko does his work with love. His affection for actors is extraordinary. He gave us the freedom and opportunity to work. He has something to say and to give, and he's always supportive," says Ivgy, who played at the Simta in David Mamet's *Duck Variations* in 1988 and in the Israeli play *Autostada* two years ago. "He managed to create true fringe, the kind that doesn't look to the box office."

Actor Sharon Alexander, currently starring in two Simta plays, made his directorial debut with *Meat* this spring. He says that Nitai gave him advice but never imposed his own ego on what he was doing. "Who else could do that?" says Alexander.

Nitai himself is most satisfied with the theater's attributes: its repertory, its reputation as a supportive framework for young artists, and for the playwrights he introduced "because we have to go on fighting for the unusual and the uncommon, or theater has no right to exist. Art is freedom, and artists need a home," Nitai asserts.

However the "discerning eye" that Plotsky grants Nitai also allowed him to choose lighter, more commercial fare "so that the theater wouldn't become elitist and divorced from its audience," as he puts it.

Yet it's fitting that Nitai's swansong as the theater's general director should be *Superior Beings*, an early play by German film giant Rainer Werner Fassbinder. "For better or worse, Nitai has put his stamp on the Simta," says Tel Aviv culture head Mordechai Virshupski. "Now there will be changes, but the Simta will continue to go in the direction of innovative theater."



Niko Nitai

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SMUTHERS—AC in a 16-yard pass from QB Elvis Grbac in second-quarter action.

AIDS victims call for boycott of Leumit

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Amharic-language weekly, *Pana*, urged readers yesterday to drop their membership in the Leumit health fund because it won't pay for drugs that can keep AIDS patients and HIV carriers alive.

According to the Health Ministry, about 120 Ethiopian immigrants require the medication, which is made up of a so-called "cocktail" of drugs, including AZT. The dosage costs \$1,200 a month per patient. The treatment has proven effective in at least 40% of cases, by significantly lowering HIV virus blood levels.

Of those who need the medicine, 90% belong to Leumit. But Leumit does not include the drugs in its basket of services, as the Health Ministry does not require it to do so.

Writing in the newspaper, MK Adisu Massala of Labor, wrote that given Leumit's policy, the country's 62,000 Ethiopian immigrants had no choice but to boycott the fund.

He also noted that everyone has the right to switch health funds up to twice a year.

"When immigrants came in Operation Solomon, Kupat Holim Leumit applied to a public tender to establish community clinics at caravan sites, so that many of the immigrants would join and remain in that health fund," Massala, an Ethiopian immigrant, wrote. "Now the health fund has decided to abandon these people and refuse to give them the health care they need. ... Leumit is risking lives."

Leumit's chairman, MK Avraham Hershson of Likud responded that "our heart is torn between the requirements of conscience to help patients and budget constraints that don't allow us to cover the costs."

He called on the Health Ministry to cover the costs of expensive medications that aren't in the basket of health services.

Hershson also wrote a letter demanding that Health Minister Yehoshua Matza immediately come up with a solution.

Ministry spokesman Dudi Ben-Ami said that it can't force health funds to pay for the drugs. He also accused the Treasury of refusing to add 14 vital drugs to the basket of health services provided by the government.

Archeological site linked to Paul

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Archeologists believe they have uncovered the building in Caesarea in which Paul, the greatest figure of the early Christian church, was incarcerated for two years before being sent to Rome for trial in 60 CE.

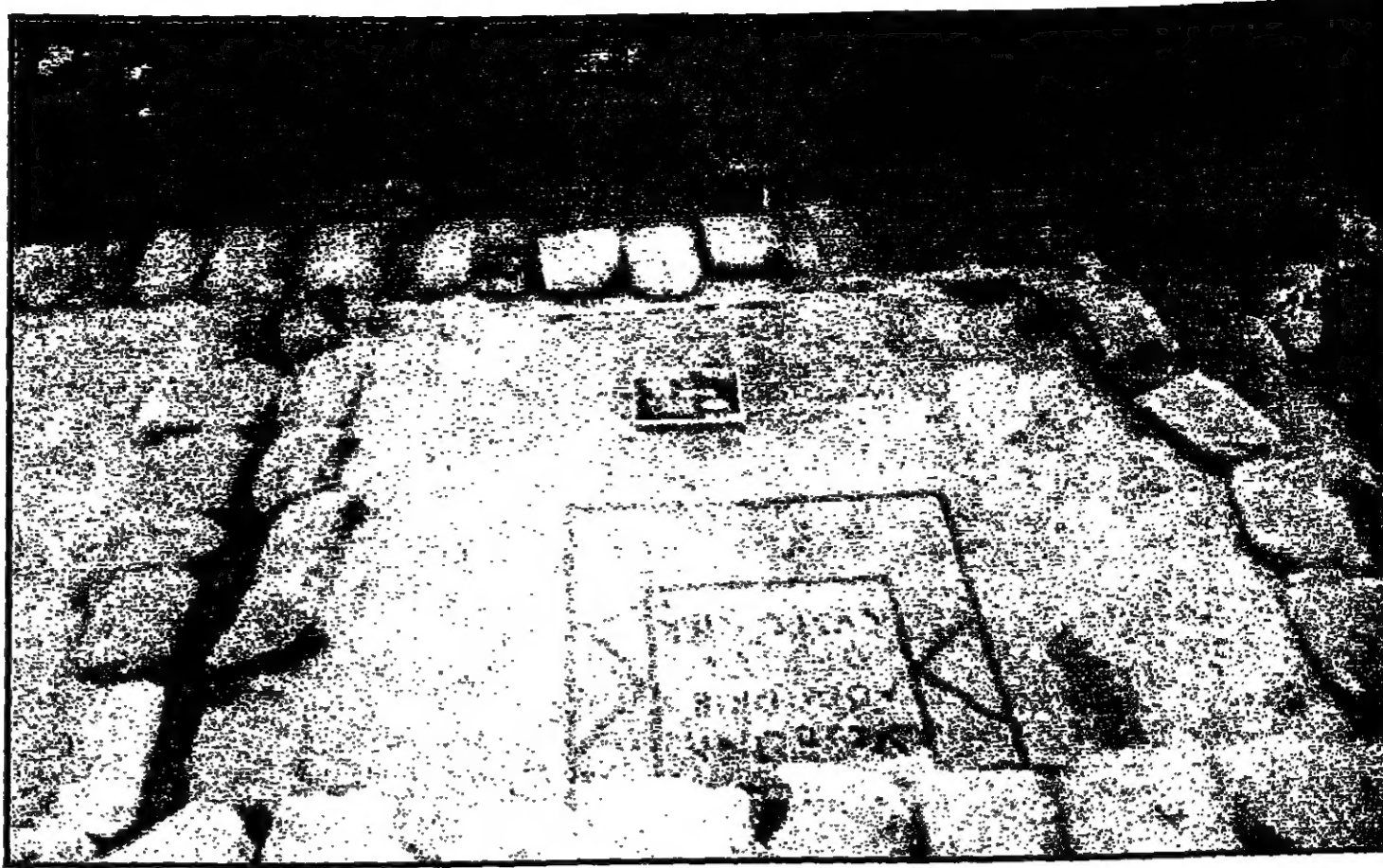
A building complex covering 15,000 square meters has been identified as the Roman government seat in the 1st century CE, when Caesarea was capital of Judea.

According to Yosef Porat of the Israel Antiquities Authority, who headed this summer's excavations, the complex included a large palace with a luxurious bathroom and administrative offices. The site is located between the Roman amphitheater and hippodrome, close to the sea.

A mosaic floor in one of the rooms uncovered in the office wing bore the Latin inscription "...advorib(us) offici custodiar," translated by Prof. Leah Segal of the Hebrew University as "...I came to this office - I shall be secure." Prof. Werner Eck of the University of Koln suggested that the room served as the office of a unit connected with security.

Porat said that the office wing of the complex likely housed the audience hall into which Paul was brought for a hearing before the Roman procurator. The Jewish leadership in Jerusalem had demanded Paul's trial after he preached "transgressions of the law" on the Temple Mount and brought gentiles into the Temple. As a Roman citizen, Paul could, and did, demand trial before a Roman court.

"I appeal to Caesar," he said,



Archeologists think the room outlined by this mosaic floor, in the Caesarea complex identified as the Roman government seat in the 1st century CE, is where St. Paul was held as an early Christian. The inscription reads: "I came to this office - I shall be secure."

according to Acts of the Apostles.

A change in procurators apparently led to his extended incarceration in Caesarea before being shipped off to Rome.

Only about 60 percent of the site has been excavated thus far, said Porat, and no room has yet been identified as the audience hall into which Paul was brought.

The excavation began almost two decades ago when its full size was not yet known. It was initially presumed to be Herod's seaside palace but excavations subsequently showed it to post-date Herod by a generation.

Porat said he sees the site becoming a major attraction for Christian pilgrimage in the future.

Budget cuts have meanwhile halted further excavations.

Paul's epistles laid the foundations for Christian theology. Born as Saul, the son of a Jew in Tarsus, he studied in Jerusalem with Rabbi Gamliel and assisted at the martyrdom of St. Stephen.

His conversion to the religion he had persecuted came on the

road to Damascus. According to Acts, he heard a voice asking "why do you persecute me?" When he asked who was speaking, the reply was "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest."

Paul's fate after being sent to Rome is unclear. By one account, he was martyred during the persecutions initiated by Nero.

Hunger striker demands Lebanon pullout

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Yoram Kastiel staked out a lonely post yesterday on the sidewalk opposite the Defense Ministry, as he launched a hunger strike calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Next to a hand-lettered sign reading, "I'm hunger striking to force the defense minister to do the right thing and get the IDF out of Lebanon," Kastiel sipped water, chain-smoked, and listened to the jeers coming from the Tel Aviv commuters heading past him on

Rehov Kaplan towards the Ayalon Highway.

"Sure, I'm getting some criticism," admitted Kastiel, a lanky, tanned, blue-eyed man in a T-shirt and faded jeans. "But for every negative comment I hear, I'm getting at least three people telling me that they are supportive of what I'm doing."

Numerous young soldiers serving in the army headquarters compound glanced at Kastiel and his sign as they passed, but most walked by without comment.

The 34-year-old is a veteran of the

Lebanon War, in which he was wounded.

Five years after his injury, he wrote a book critical of the presence in Lebanon entitled, *We've Gone Out of Our Minds - When Are We Going to Return?*

Despite his authorship of the book, he insists, he is not generally politically active - "I was never one to go to demonstrations. I'm just a regular citizen."

Divorced, Kastiel lives in Azur and earns his living trimming trees and shrubbery. He says it was February's helicopter disaster, and then last week's botched commando raid, that pushed him into

beginning a hunger strike.

"All of these years have passed since I served in Lebanon and nothing has changed. We've lost 1,500 soldiers and the Katyushas are still falling, and the politicians do nothing. They pay more attention to the question of who gets what ministry than this problem in Lebanon."

"After the helicopter disaster, I heard David Levy on the radio talking about how much the situation pains him. Well, he's been saying for the past 15 years that it's pained him, but what has he done? I feel as if I don't do something like this

hunger strike, my children are going to have to serve in Lebanon."

Although he decided to undertake the hunger strike alone, Kastiel has called on other IDF veterans to join him.

By mid-afternoon, Kastiel's loneliness was relieved somewhat by Illi Kaufman, a representative of Women for a Withdrawal from Lebanon. She said that her group had gathered signatures on a petition of support for Kastiel.

Kaufman says that recent events have created grass-roots momentum for the cause of withdrawing from Lebanon.

PA tells its supreme court not to intervene in professor's arrest

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Supreme Court was told by Palestinian security officials yesterday not to intervene in the arrest of a Gaza lecturer. The man has been held for more than two months after questioning his students about corruption in the Palestinian Authority.

A representative of the attorney-general, Ahmed Siam, told the court that Al-Azhar University Prof. Fathi Subuh had been investigated and charged by a state security court. He said the Supreme Court does not have

jurisdiction, because the case has been classified as a security matter. Siam did not elaborate on the security charges, but added that Attorney-General Fayez Abu Rahme had signed two requests for an extension of Subuh's detention. Minutes later, the three-judge panel adjourned and postponed the continuation of the hearing for another month.

Human rights activists pointed to yesterday's hearing as the latest example of how Palestinian civil courts have become submissive to PA security authorities.

Subuh was arrested on July 2

after he gave his English class a test that included questions on corruption in the PA and the university, which is aligned with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. His attorney, Raji Sourani, said that since the detention, Subuh, 43, has been held without charges and without the right to an attorney's visit.

Palestinian security authorities have refused to respond to a High Court order for them to explain Subuh's detention.

"There are no charges here, just talk," Sourani told the judges. "The laws were not respected in this case."

Although Subuh's charges were not listed in yesterday's hearing, Abu Rahme said he is accused of "dealing with Israel and other offenses, including mistreating girl students."

Sourani, who also heads the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, told the three judges that his client was accused of treason during his interrogations.

At the same time, the attorney said, Abu Rahme had promised that Subuh would be released immediately. Subuh himself was not brought to the largely empty courtroom, which was attended by a human rights activist, Subuh's wife, and a university colleague. There were no representatives of the Palestinian press in the courtroom.

"Were there charges filed?" Supreme Court Judge Radwan Agha asked.

"Yes," Siam replied. Sourani stood up. "This is a surprise," he said. "I have asked the prosecutor for a file and this is the first time I've been told that there is a file."

Later, Abu Rahme appeared hesitant to define his role in the Subuh case, but acknowledged that he had signed the detention orders.

Asked to explain his representative's argument that the Supreme Court does not have jurisdiction when he signed an extension of Subuh's detention, Abu Rahme said even though the Gaza professor is now in a civilian jail, he is still under the authority of the state security court.

Bassam Eid, the only human rights activist attending the hearing, said the Subuh case reflects the intimidation of the Palestinian courts by security authorities. "The judges don't really know what to do in this case," he said.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the queen of spades, king of hearts, 8 of diamonds, and 8 of clubs, and the jack of spades, 8 of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

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